The Lone Wolf's arch-enemy, Yagyu Retsudo, is truly beginning to reach the end of his rope, as he sends his only daughter and last child after the blood-storm that is Itto Ogami! Meanwhile, Ogami and Daigoro happen upon another clue about the mysterious Yagyu Letter in a final showdown with the Kurokuwa ninja clan. A desperate Retsudo puts a bounty on Ogami's head, and two of Japan's most deadly bounty hunters hunt for the Lone Wolf and his Cub, while a poor woodcutter must decide between the bounty and his life by sheltering Ogami and Daigoro! All this and much more awaits in one of comics' most legendary series: *Lone Wolf and Cub*.

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— The Onion

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LONE WOLF AND CUB

KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

LONE WOLF AND CUB

子連狼

DARK HORSE COMICS

STUDIO PROTEUS

子連狼

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VOLUME 16

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By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

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DANA LEWIS

lettering & retouch
DIGITAL CHAMELEON

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GATEWAY INTO WINTER

子連れ狼

By KAZUO KOIKE

& GOSEKI KOJIMA

VOLUME

16

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB

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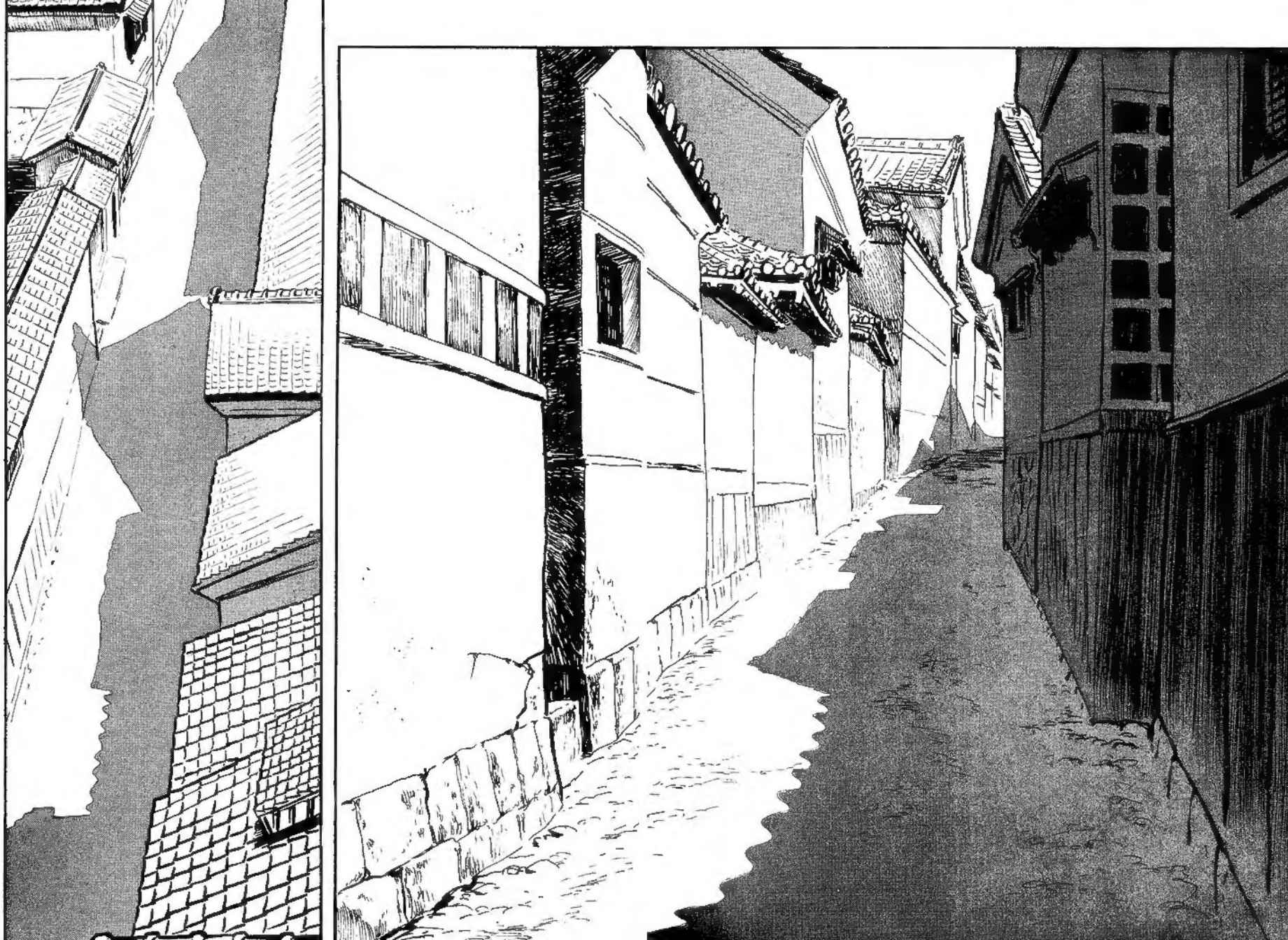
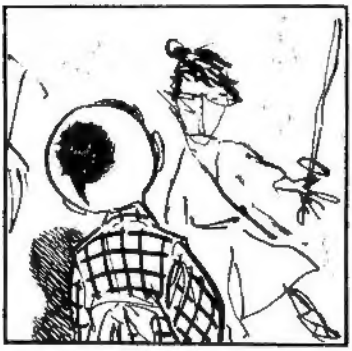
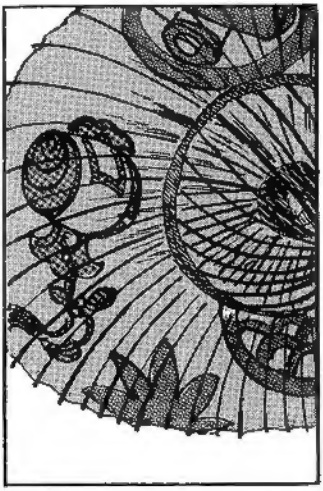
the seventy-eighth

Umbrella



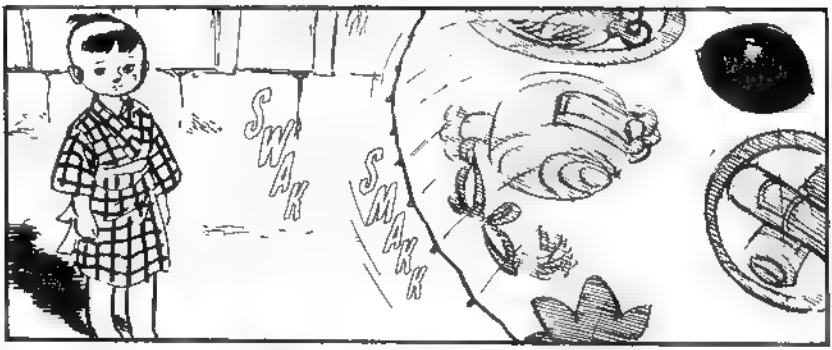


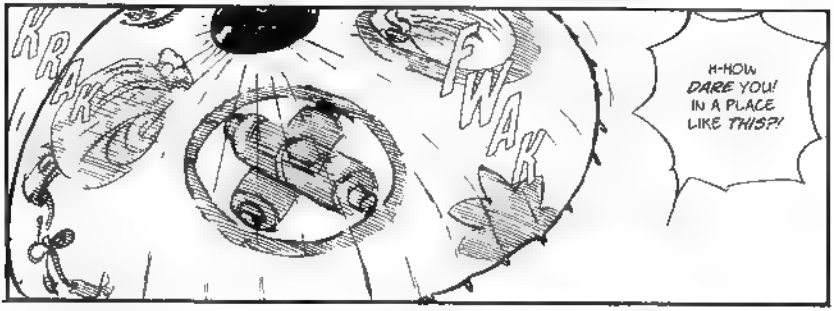


SMAK

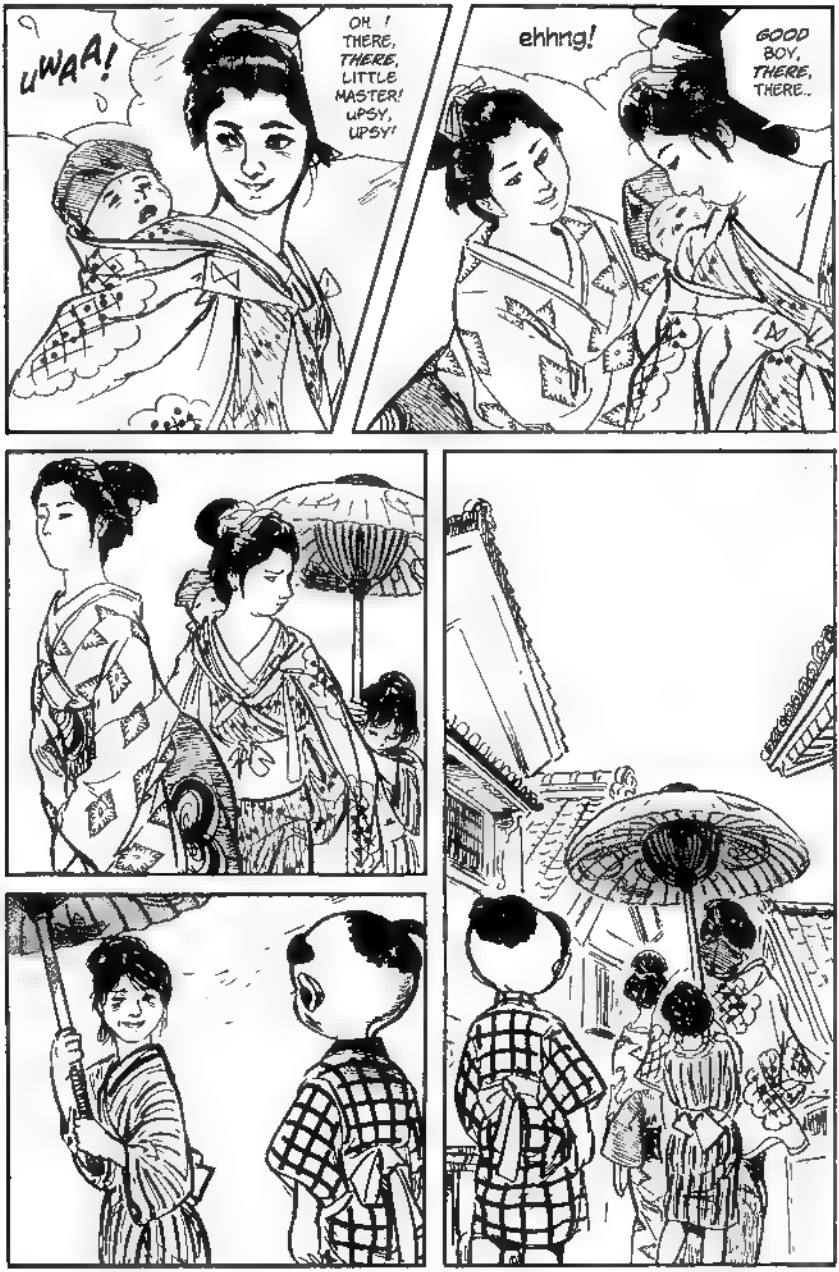
KRAK

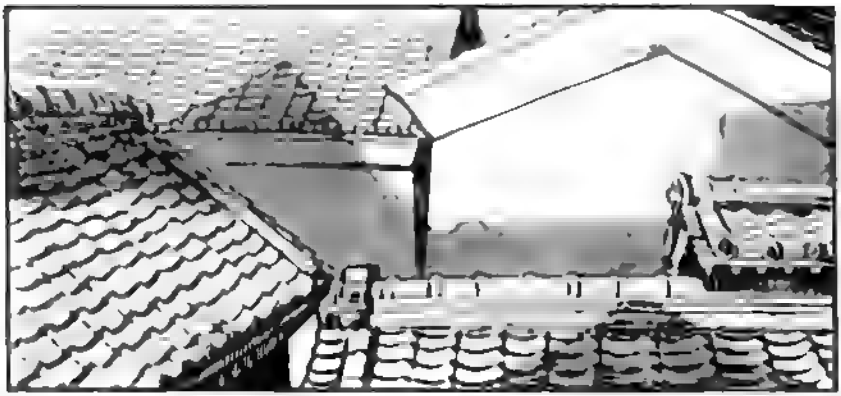
FWAK

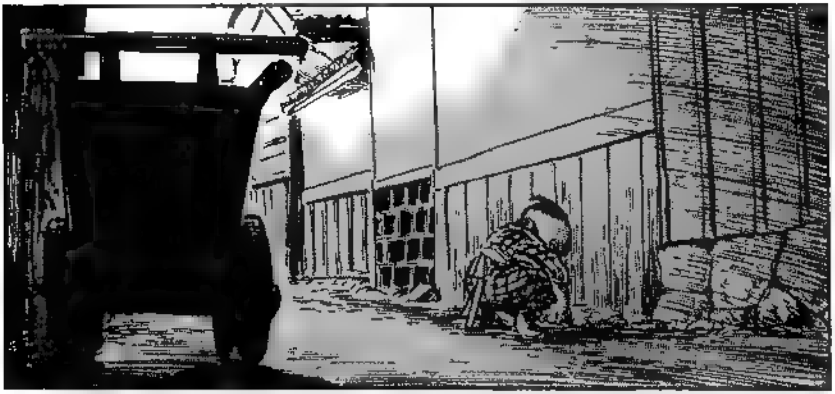

SWAK
SMAK


KRAK
SWAK
H-HOW DARE YOU! IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?!

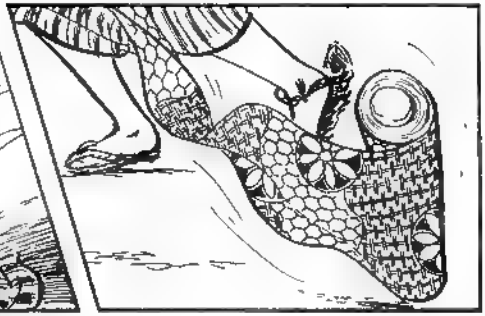
AND DON'T YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

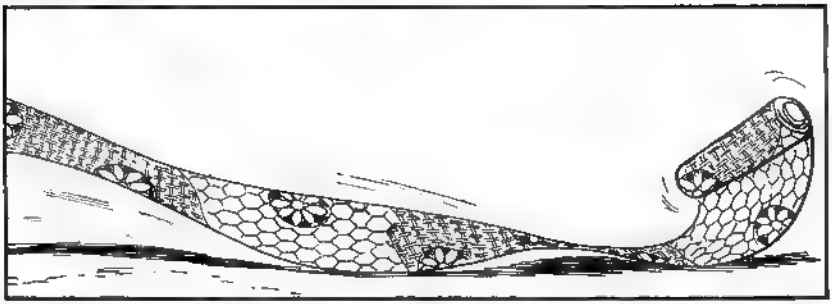

uwaA!
OH ! THERE, THERE, LITTLE MASTER! UPSY, UPSY!
ehhng!
GOOD BOY, THERE, THERE..

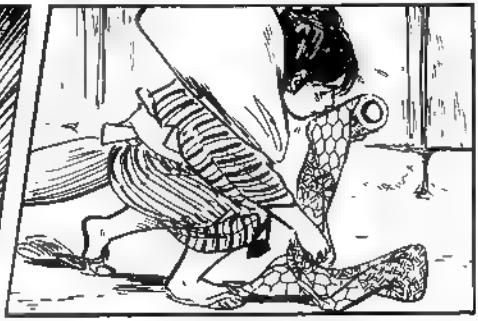




SNAP







YOU LITTLE WENCH!
SWAK

MY SHOPPING-- RUINED!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

NO DINNER TONIGHT, EITHER!
UNDERSTAND? EVERY STUPID BLUNDER YOU COMMIT YOU STARVE!

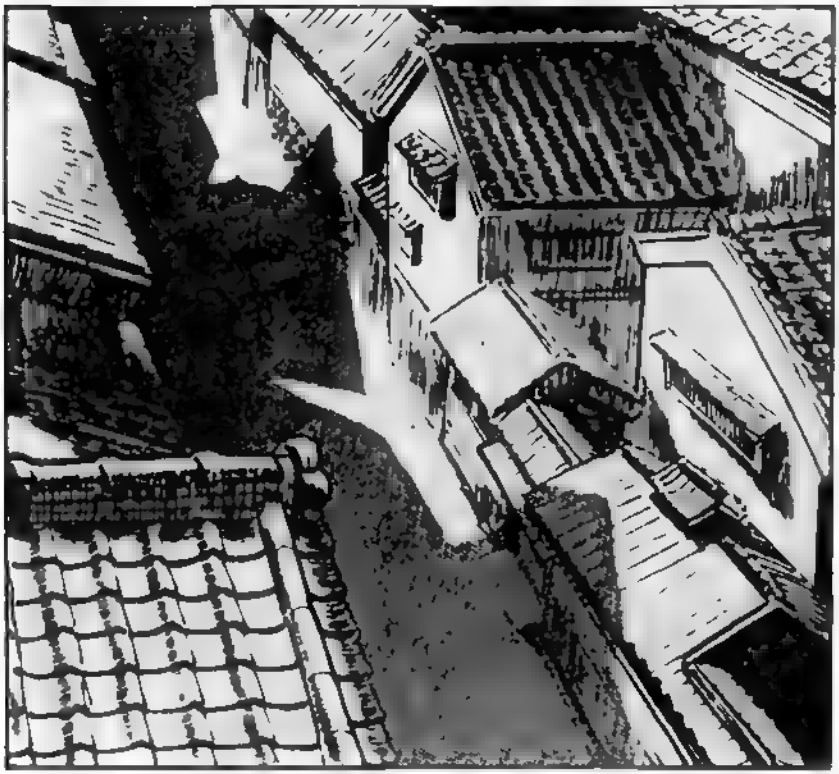
THAT'S TWO DAYS WITHOUT FOOD, NOP!
IF YOU WANT TO EAT TRY HARDER TRASH

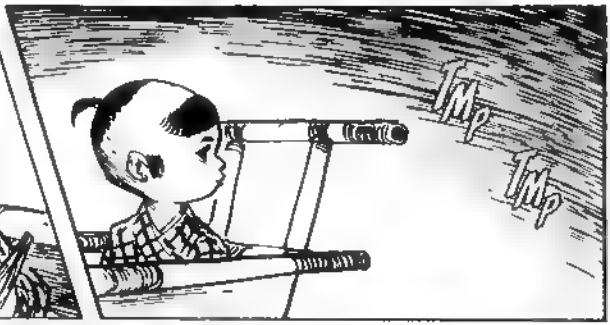
YOUR FAMILY OWES US A FORTUNE!
YOU'LL WORK THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND NEVER PAY IT OFF!

IF YOU FEEL THE TINIEST SHRED OF GRATITUDE, DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PLEASE ME.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE WORKING FOR NARUMI-YA TO THE DAY YOU DIE!

I HATE THAT LOOK!
KRAK

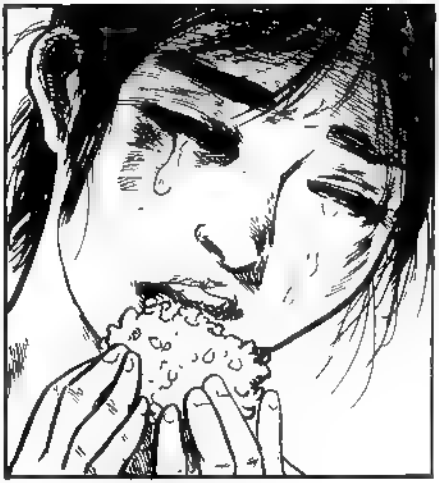
INSOLENT GUTTER TRASH!

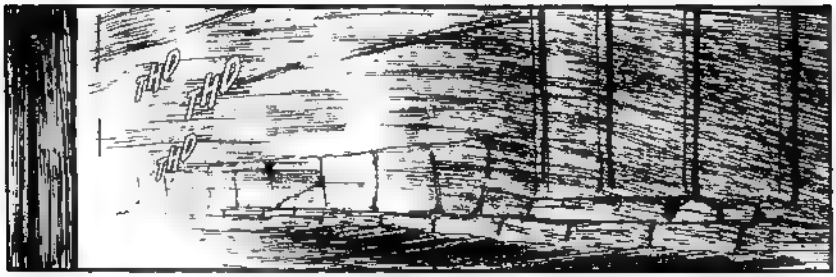


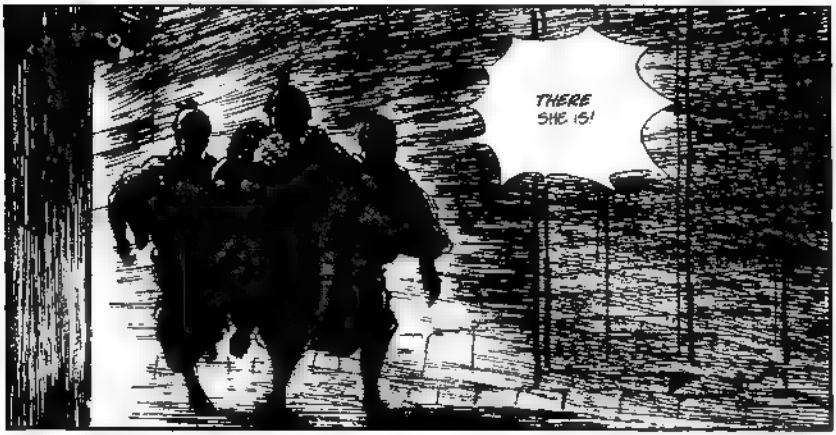

Mp
Mp

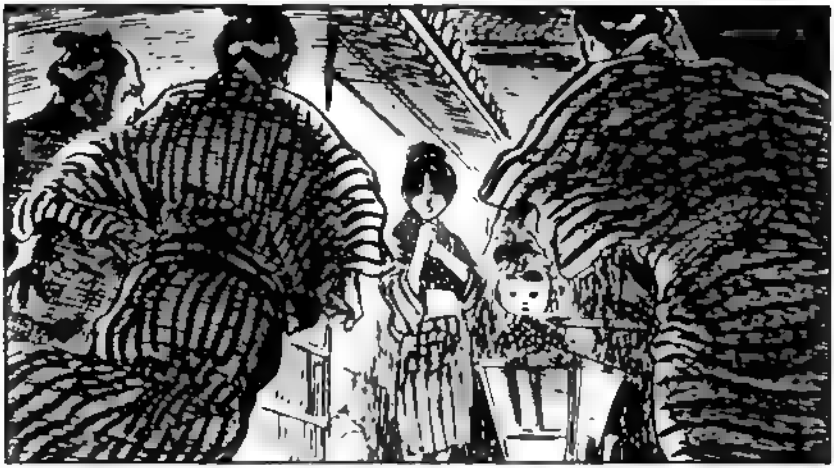
sulps

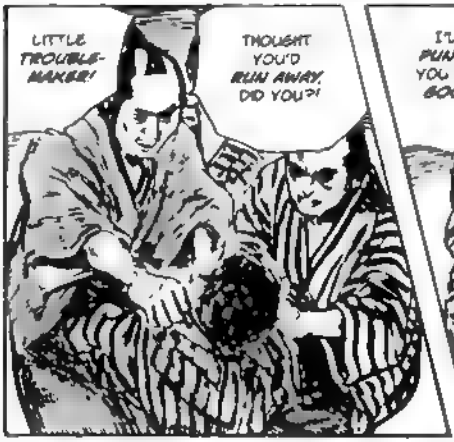
mch
mch

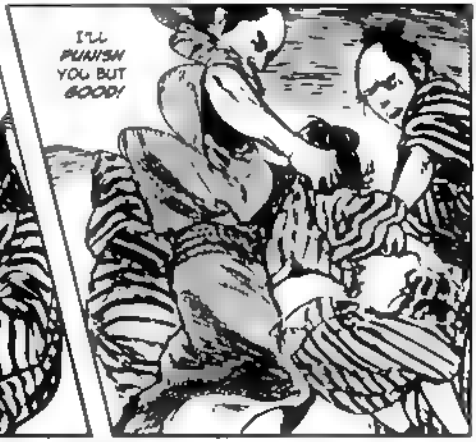



THP
THP
THP


THERE SHE IS!




LITTLE TROUBLE-MAKER!
THOUGHT YOU'D RUN AWAY, DID YOU?!


I'LL PUNISH YOU BUT GOOD!

CUT IT OUT!
IT'S YOUR DAMN FAULT YOU'RE SO UPPITY!
BE GRATEFUL YOU WORK FOR A MERCHANT HOUSE. WE COULD'A SOLD YOU TO THE WHOREHOUSE!
NOW COME ON!
H. HELP!

SHUDDUP!
DAMN WENCH!
NO! NO!!
I WON'T!
I WON'T GO BACK!
I HATE IT! I'D RATHER DIE!
KRAK
OW! WHAT TH-?!
HUH?!

YOU DAMN KID!
STOP THAT!

WHO'S THE BRAT?
DUNNO

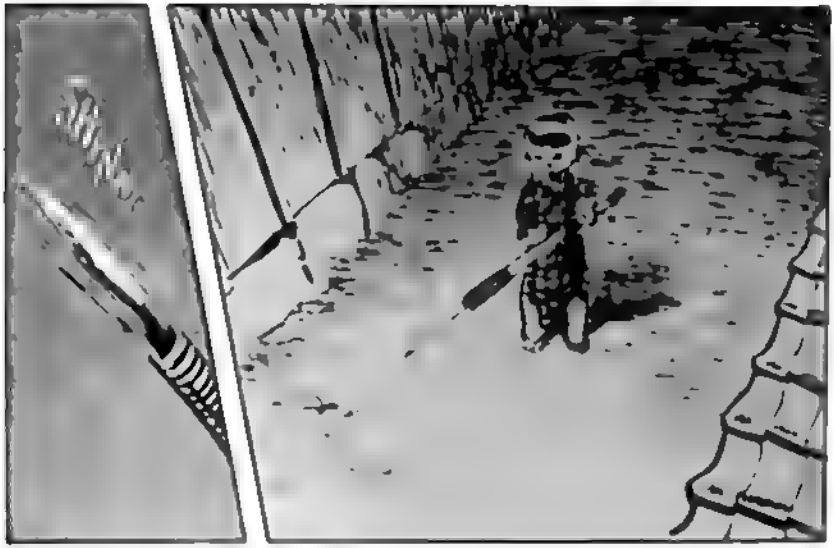
IGNORE HIM.
NOOO! S-STOP!

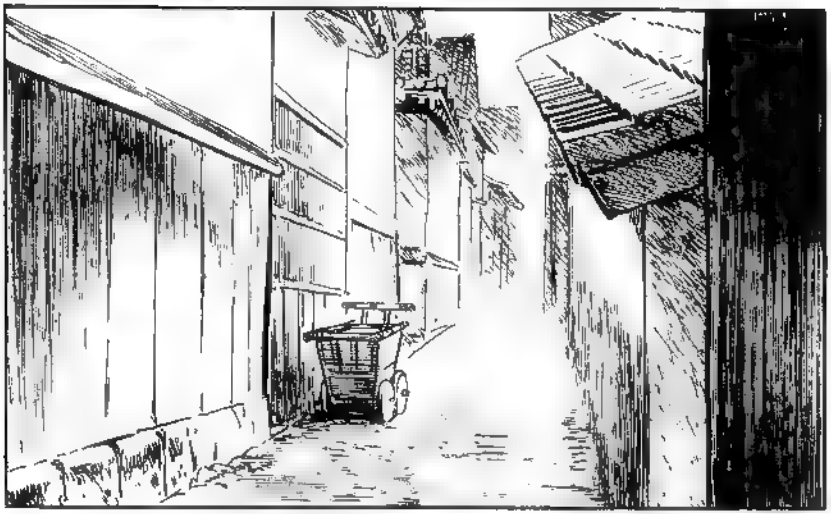
OWW!
HEY!
KLOK
KLOK

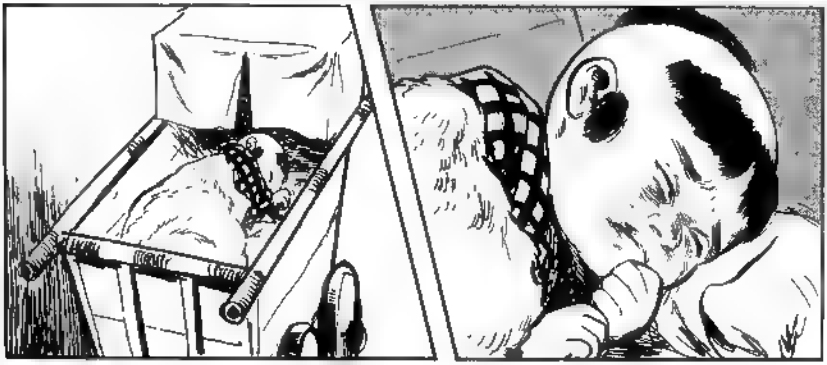
YOU LOUSY LITTLE BRAT!
SWAK!
THAT'S ENOUGH. HE'S JUST A KID

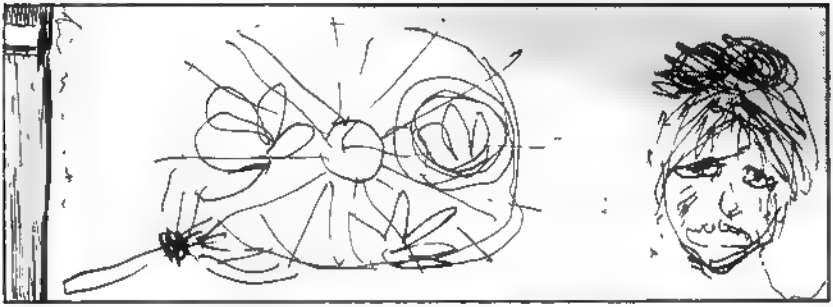
YAH?!
THAT HURT!
OW!
WHY YOU--!!
YOU'LL BE SORRY!

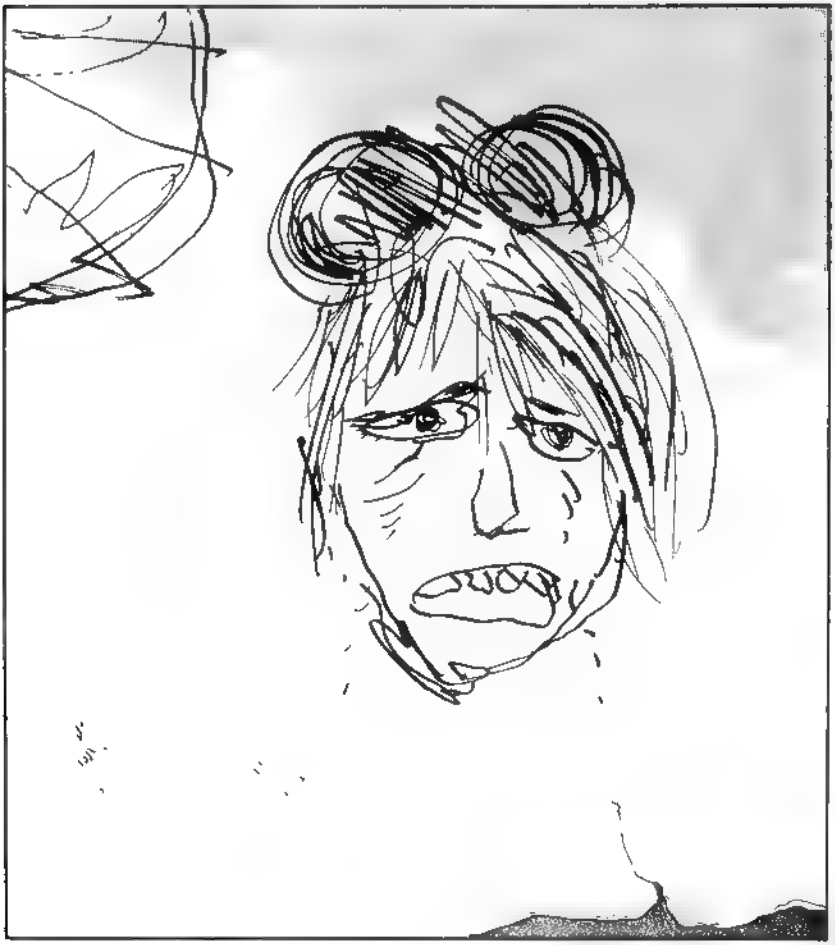
I SAID ENOUGH ALREADY
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SUCH . CRAZY LITTLE KID
DAISY

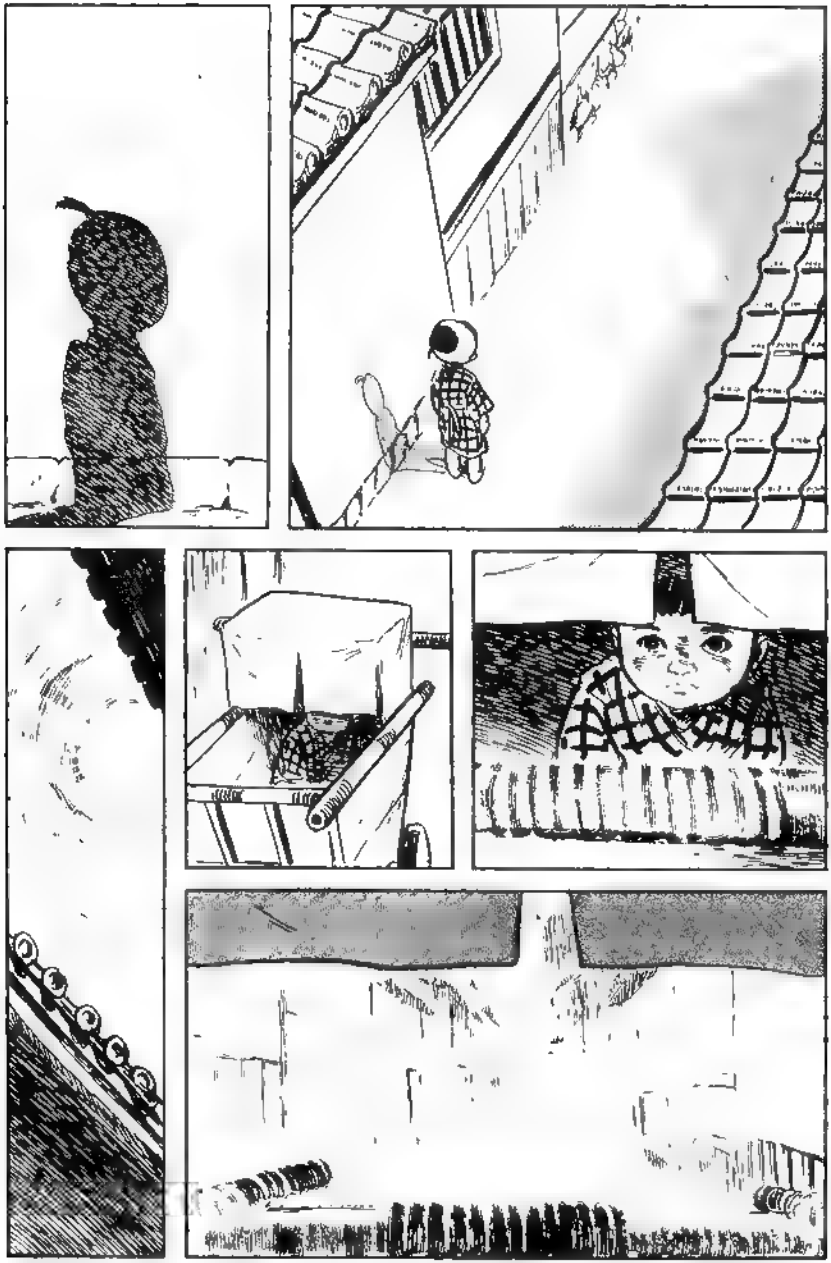




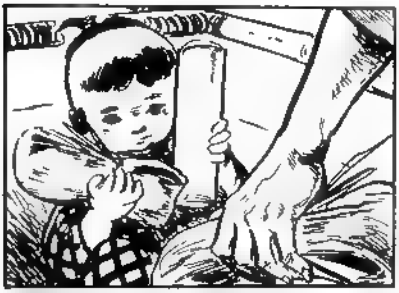


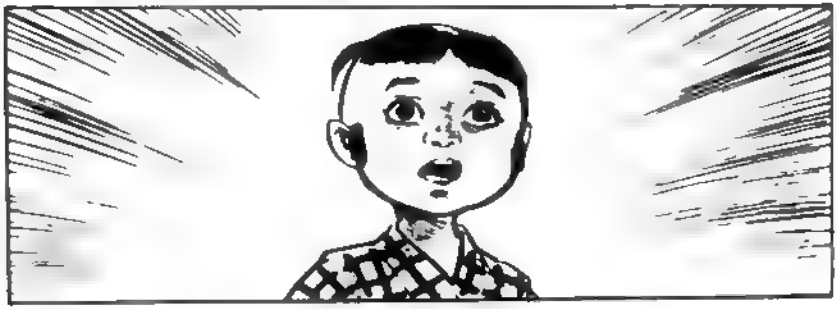


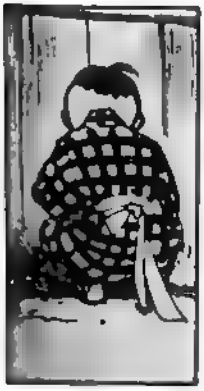


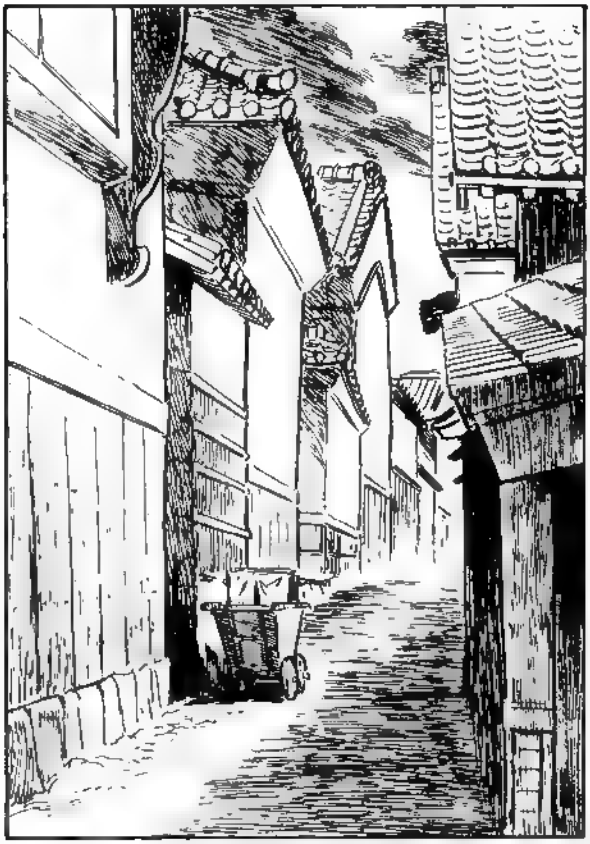


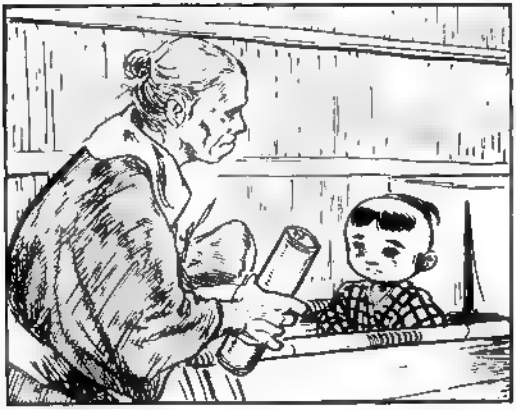
HERE'S YOUR FOOD

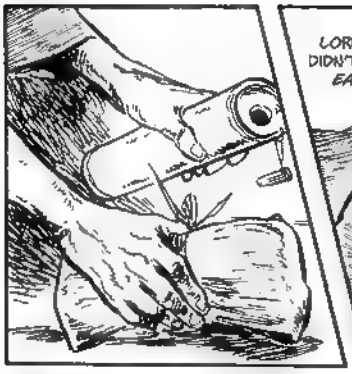


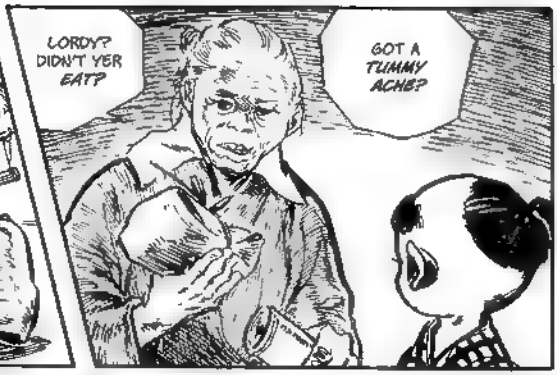




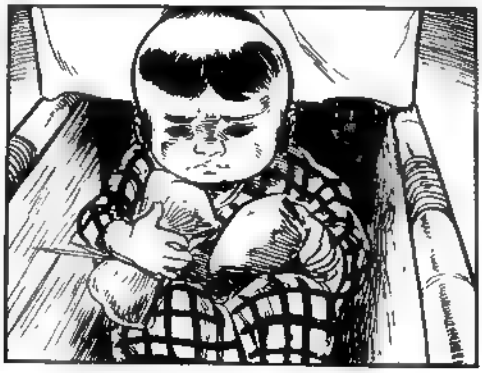




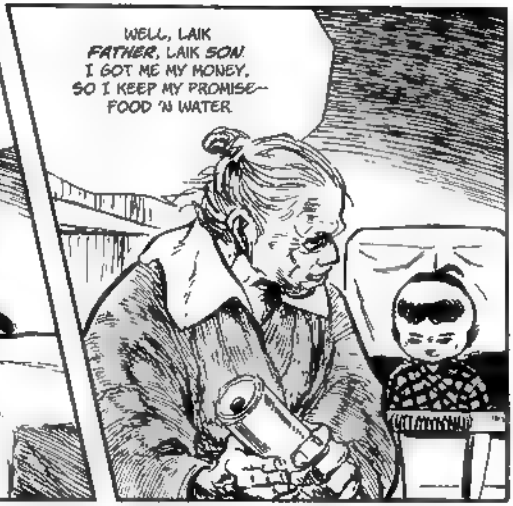



LORDY? DIDN'T YER EAT?
GOT A TUMMY ACHE?

WHP



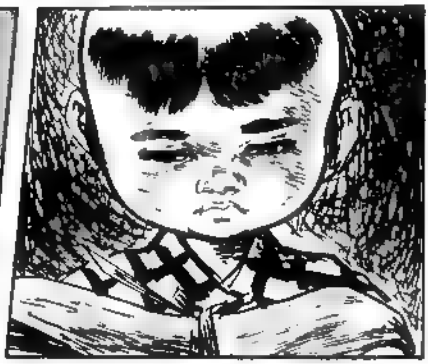
YER A STRANGE ONE
DON'T TALK, DON'T MAKE NICE..

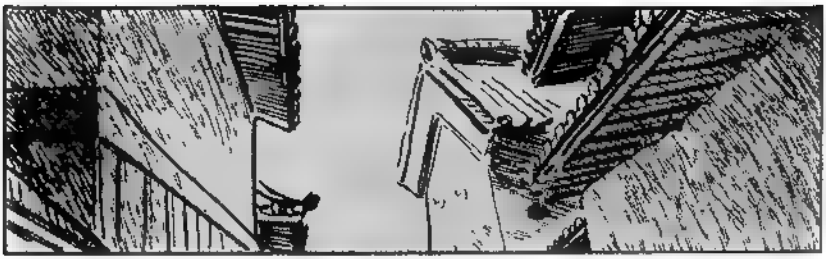

WELL, LAIK FATHER, LAIK SON I GOT ME MY MONEY, SO I KEEP MY PROMISE— FOOD 'N WATER

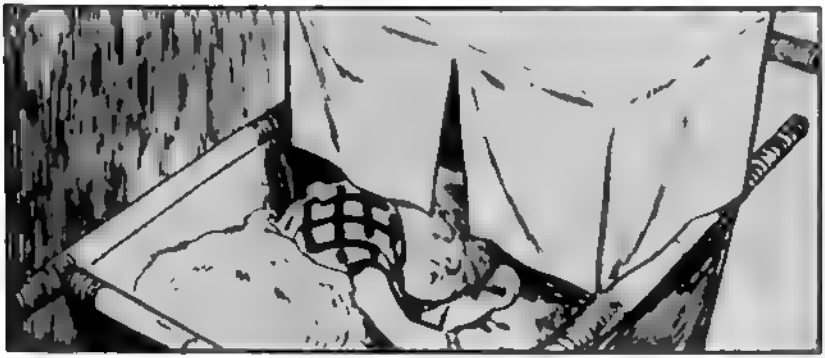
BUT WHAT PARENT UP AND LEAVES HIS BOY FOR DAYS ON END?

AND WHAT KID JES SITS THERE NOT LONELY NOR SCAIRT NOR NOTHING.

....
....



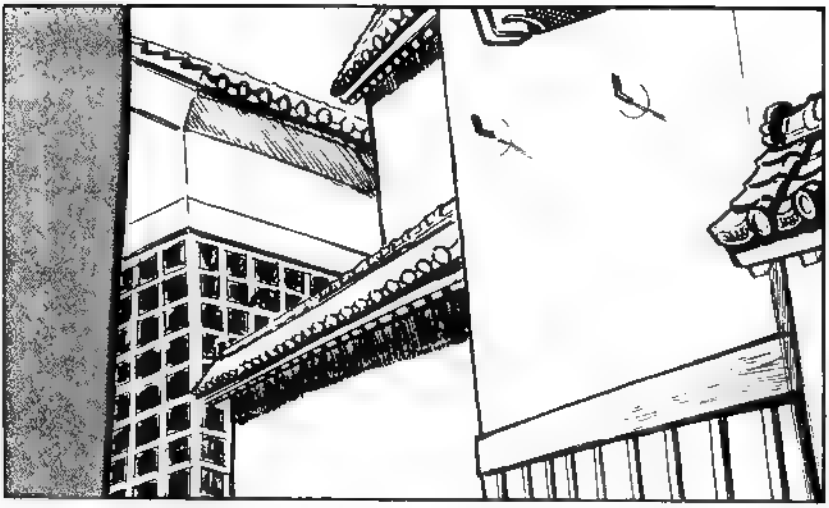


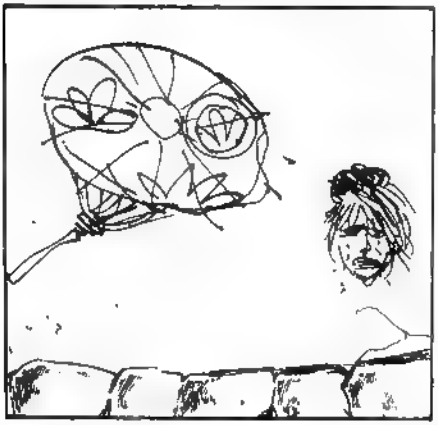


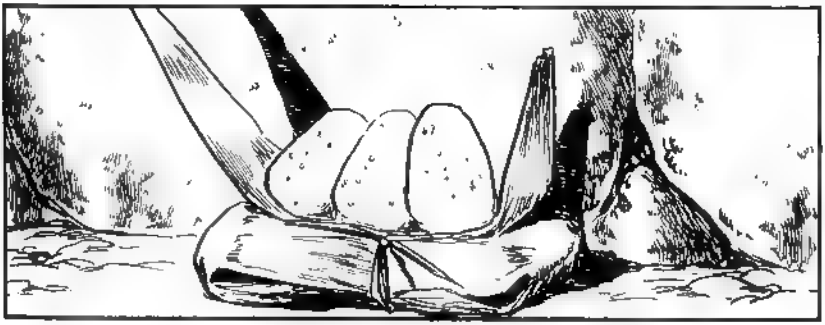
PAPA.
MM.

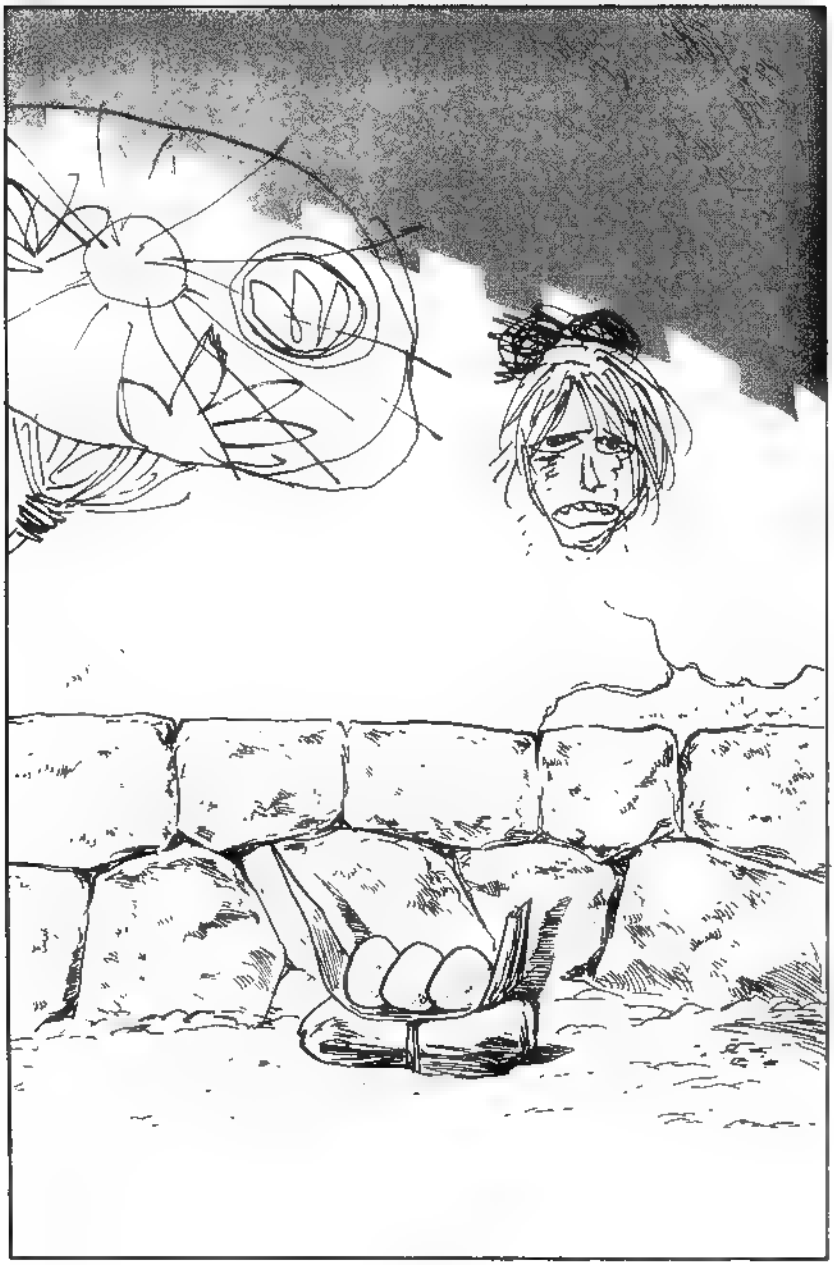
GARA
GARA

GARA
GARA









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presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

the seventy-ninth

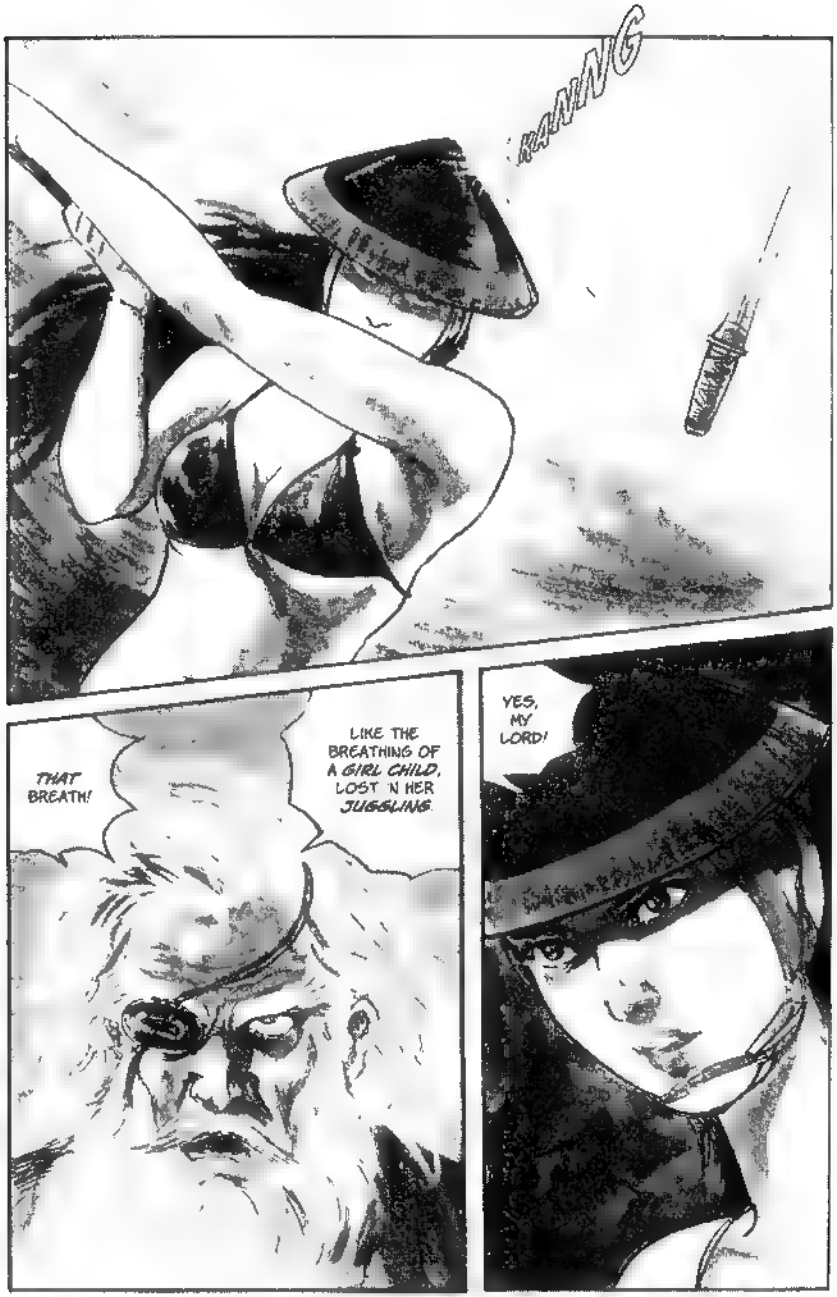
Sayaka

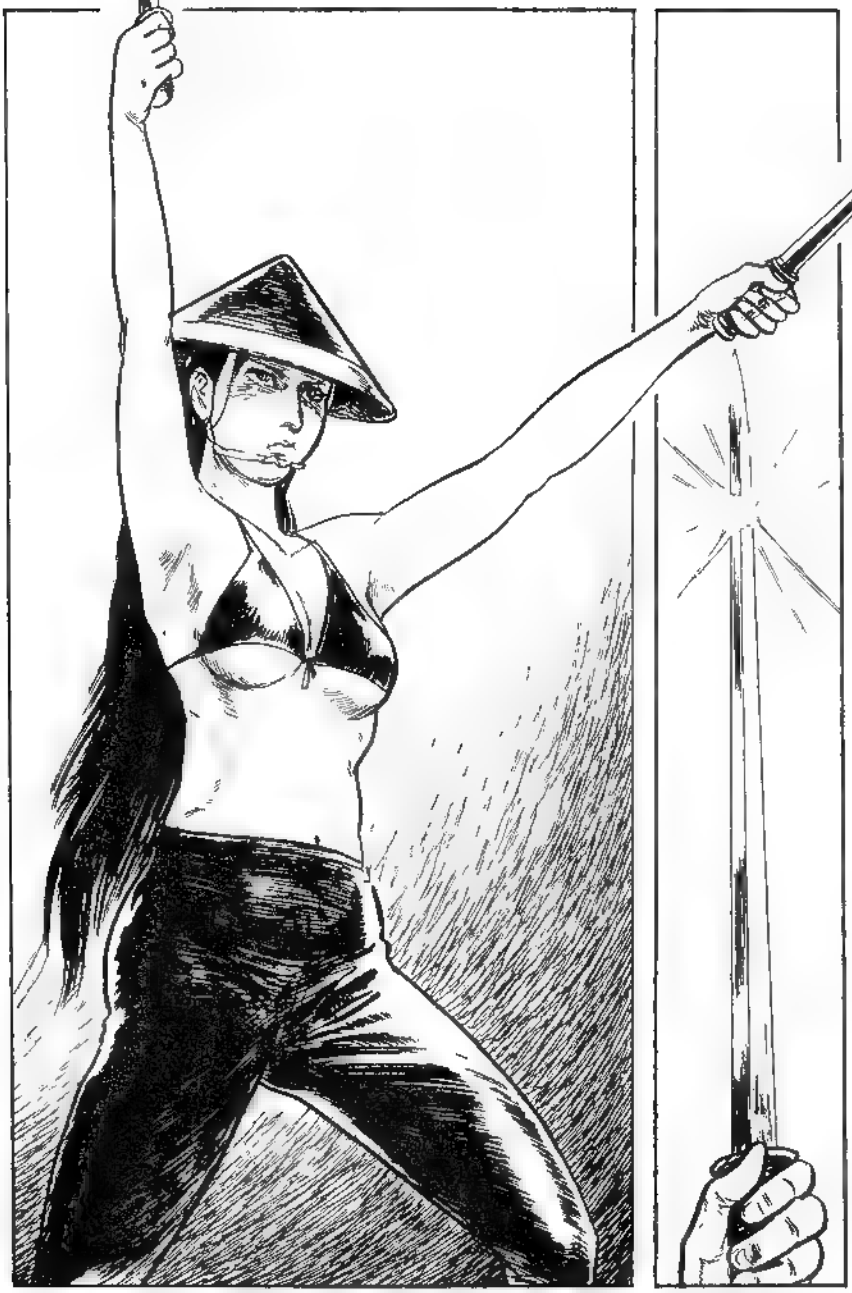
NGAHH!

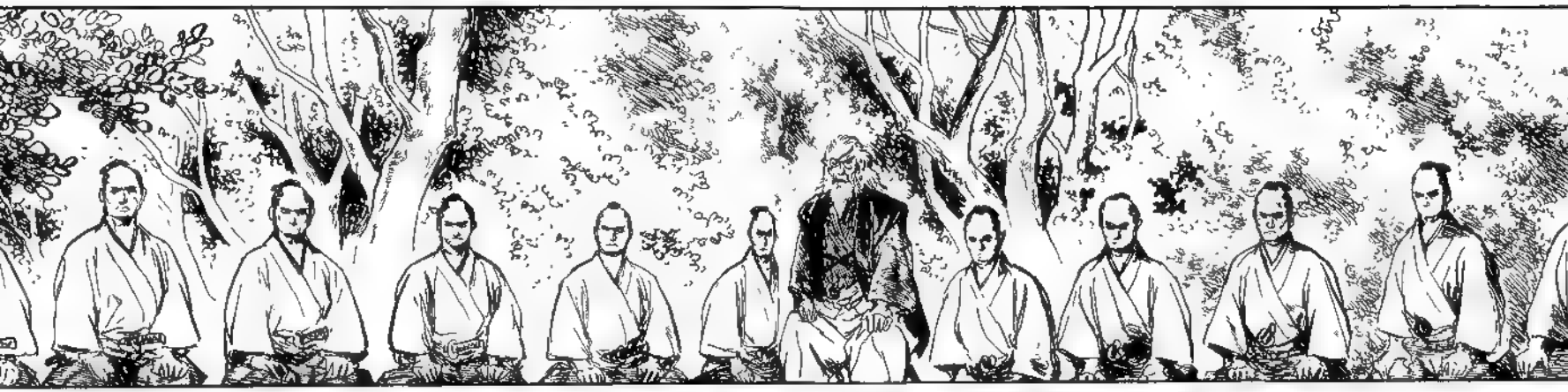
SLOW
BREATH
SLOW

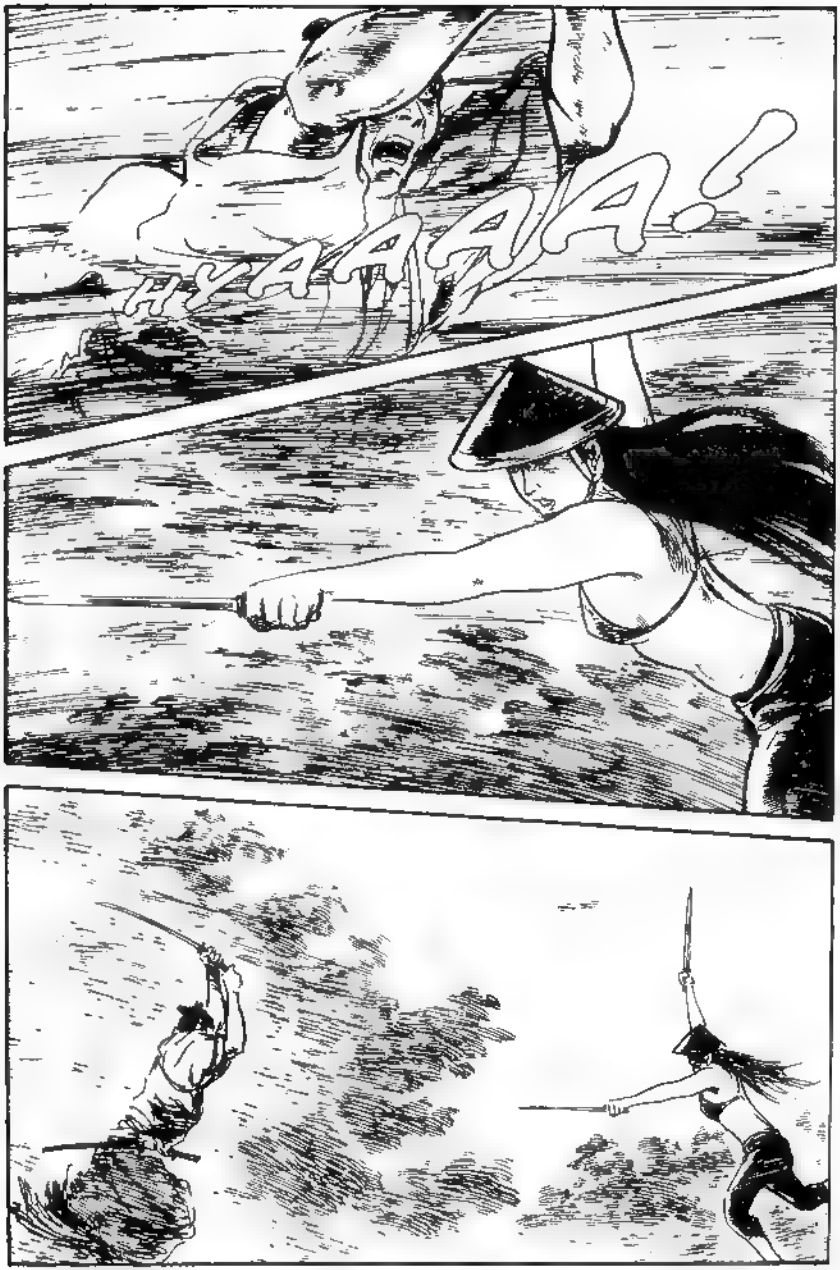
I CREATED THE O-TEDAMA DAGGER FOR SUIKÔ-RYU ALONE!
I WILL DEMONSTRATE ONCE MASTER IT SAYAKA!
MY LORD!

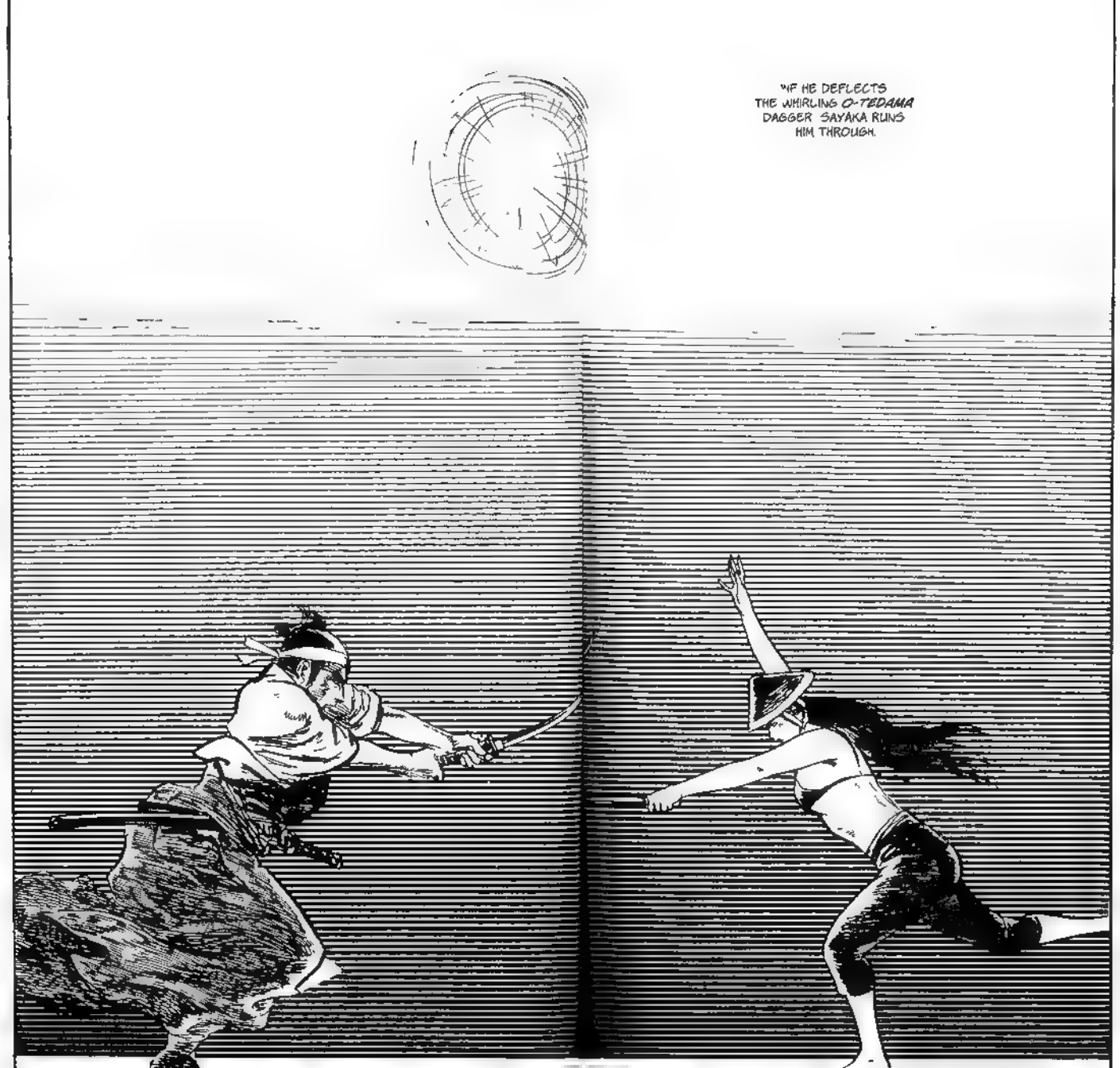
RYAHHH!
SHANG

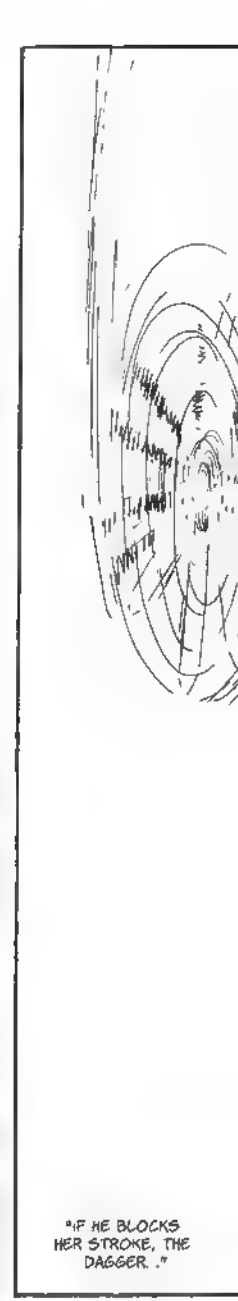

KANNG
THAT BREATH!
LIKE THE BREATHING OF A GIRL CHILD, LOST IN HER JUGGLING.
YES, MY LORD!

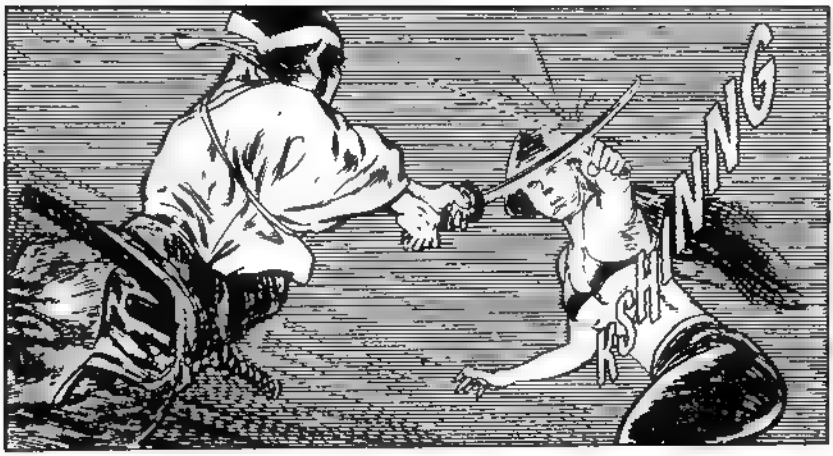




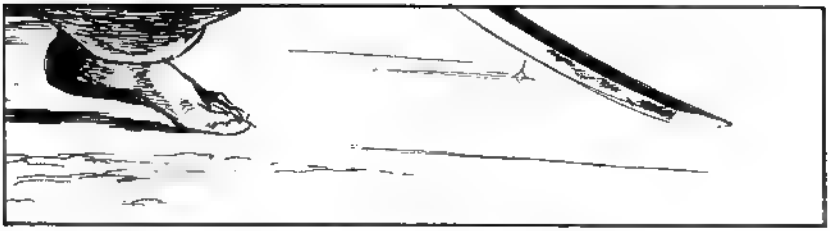

HYAAAA!

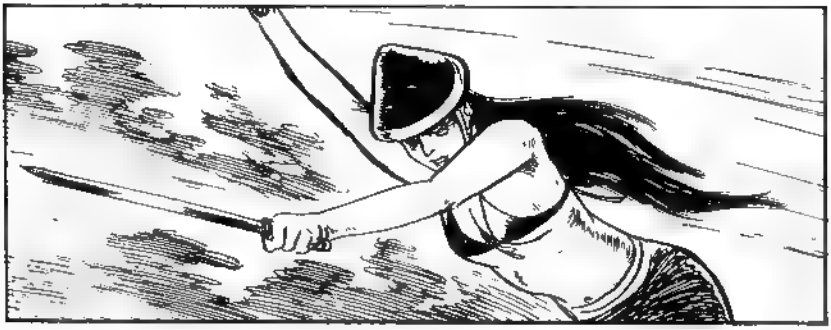

"IF HE DEFLECTS THE WHIRLING *O-TEDAMA* DAGGER SAYAKA RUNS HIM THROUGH.

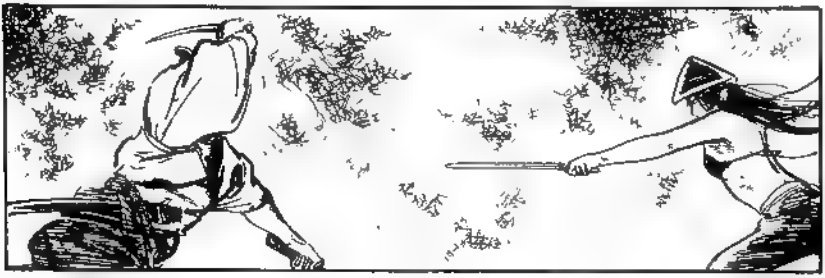

"IF HE BLOCKS HER STROKE, THE DAGGER ."

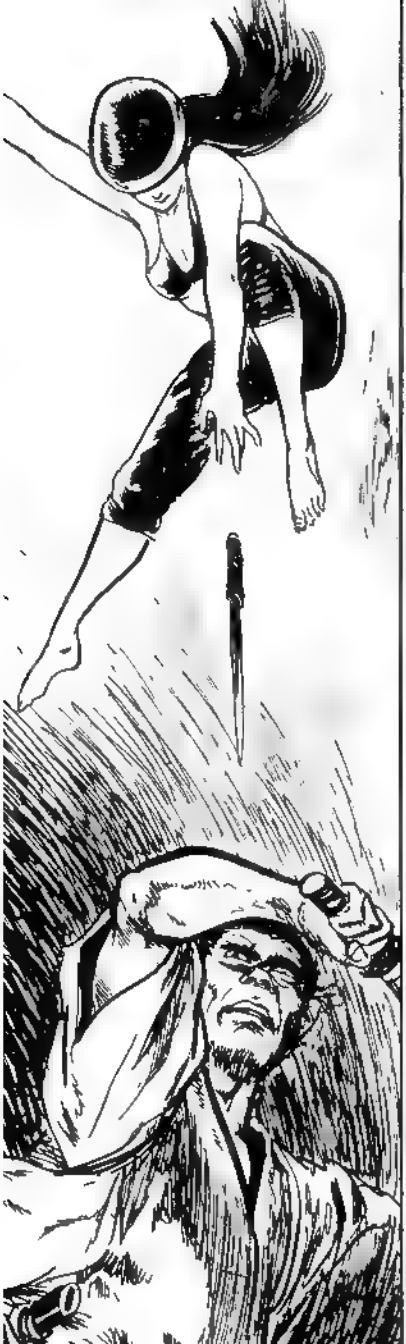

KSHING

SHUKK





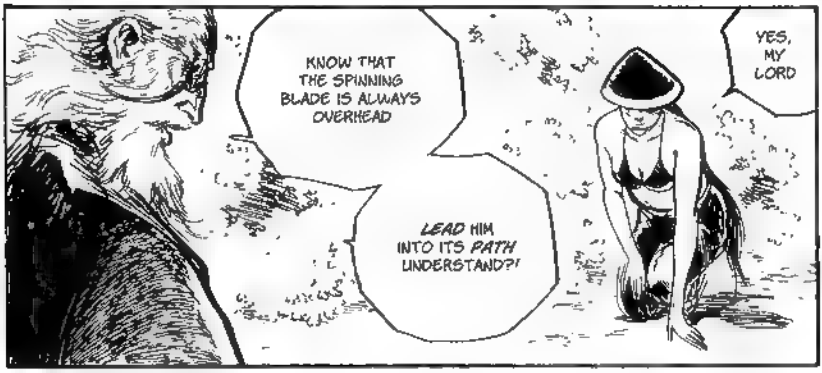




TANGG

CHOKK
RGH!

LIKE A GIRL'S *O-TEDAMA*, YOUR BLADES ARE ALWAYS SHIFTING, MATCHING YOUR OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS.
TO SEIZE THE *INSTANT*, YOU MUST BARE YOUR SK.N. *FEEL* HIS ENERGY! *READ* THE BREEZE OF HIS BODY AS YOU CAST YOUR *O-TEDAMA* DAGGER.


KNOW THAT THE SPINNING BLADE IS ALWAYS OVERHEAD
LEAD HIM INTO ITS *PATH* UNDERSTAND?!
YES, MY LORD

YOUR LIVES WILL NOT BE WASTED
FORGIVE ME.

SAYAKA.
MY LORD ?

WE ARE THE *LAST* OF OUR CLAN, YOU AND I YOU ARE THE *URA-YAGYŪ'S* FINAL ACE. *KILL* THE KILLER OF YOUR BROTHERS! *KILL* ŌGAMI ITTŌ AND HIS ONLY SON, DAIGORO!
YES, MY LORD!

WE MUST END THIS LONG BATTLE.
SHOULD IT HAPPEN THAT YOU *DIE*

THE *YAGYŪ* WILL TURN ITS FULL FORCE OF ARMS UPON ITTO, REGARDLESS OF THE EYES OF THE WORLD!
UNTIL NOW WE HAVE FOUGHT IN THE SHADOWS, SEEKING TO SETTLE THIS IN SECRECY BUT IF MY LAST CHILD IS GONE, IT WILL MEAN A FRONTAL ASSAULT

I WILL COMMAND THE *DAIMYŌ*, MOBILIZE THE OFFICERS ON *SHŌGUNATE* LANDS, MOBILIZE THE ENTIRE MIGHT OF THE *YAGYŪ* TO BURY THAT MAN.

YET IF WE CALL OUT ARMIES TO KILL A SINGLE *RŌNIN*, THE *YAGYŪ* NAME WILL BE BLACKENED FOR ALL TIME.

AND SO, SAYAKA..

YES, MY LORD

I PRAY WE WILL BE SPARED..

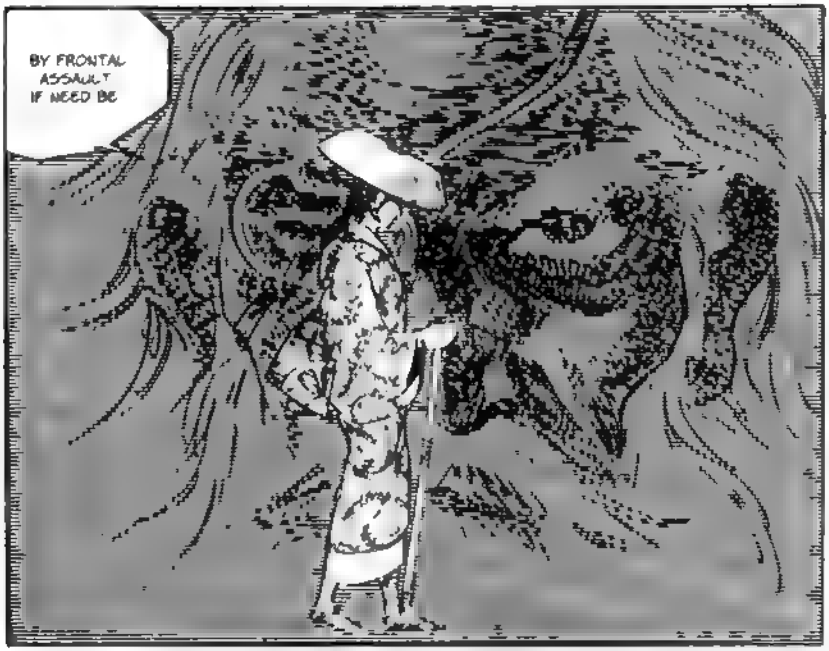
BY *YOUR* SKILL

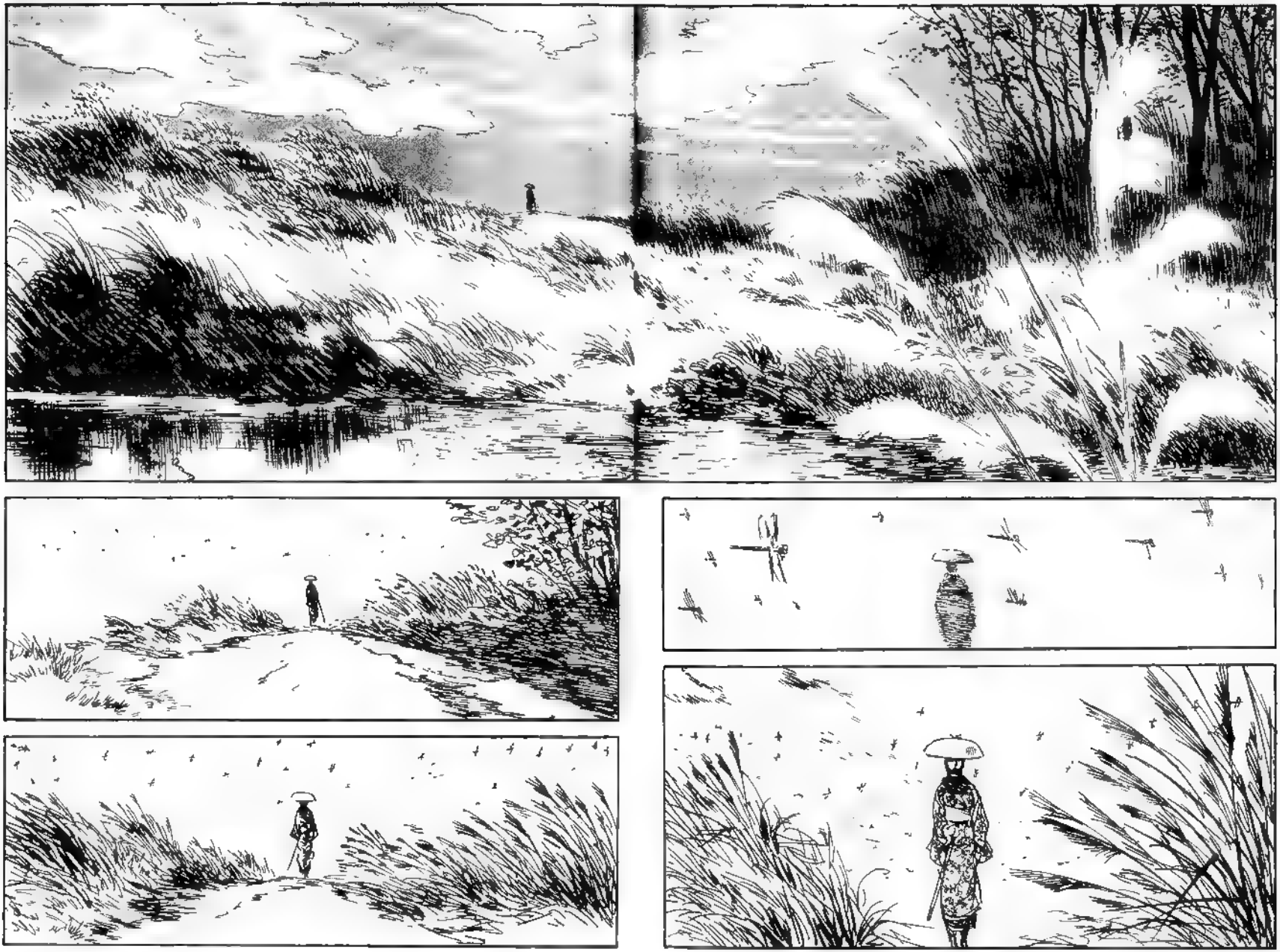
....
....

IT'S TIME TO PART SET FORTH! THE *KUROKUWA* SHALL GUIDE YOU TO HIM.

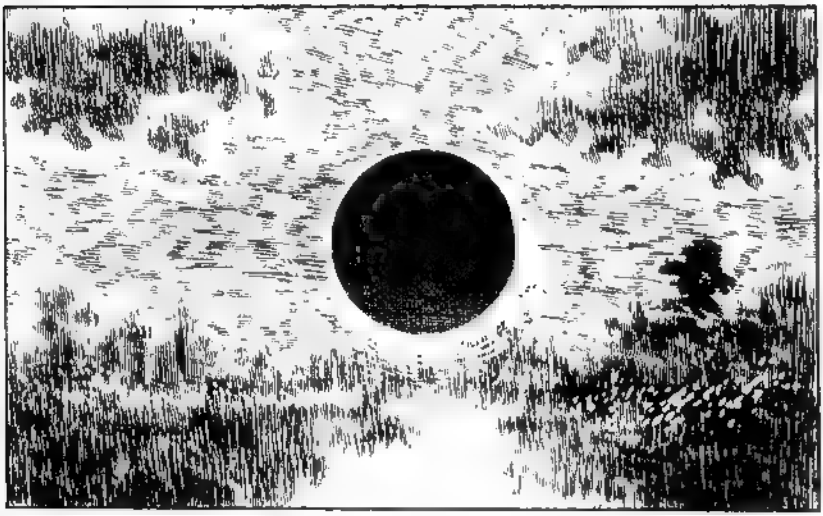
MY *LORD!*

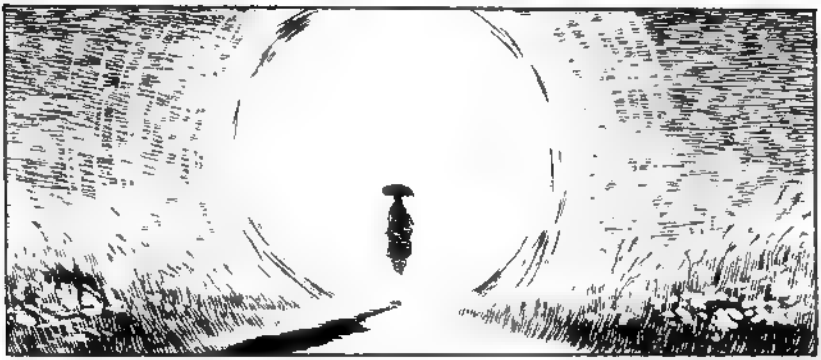
THE GREAT DIVIDE!
WE END THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

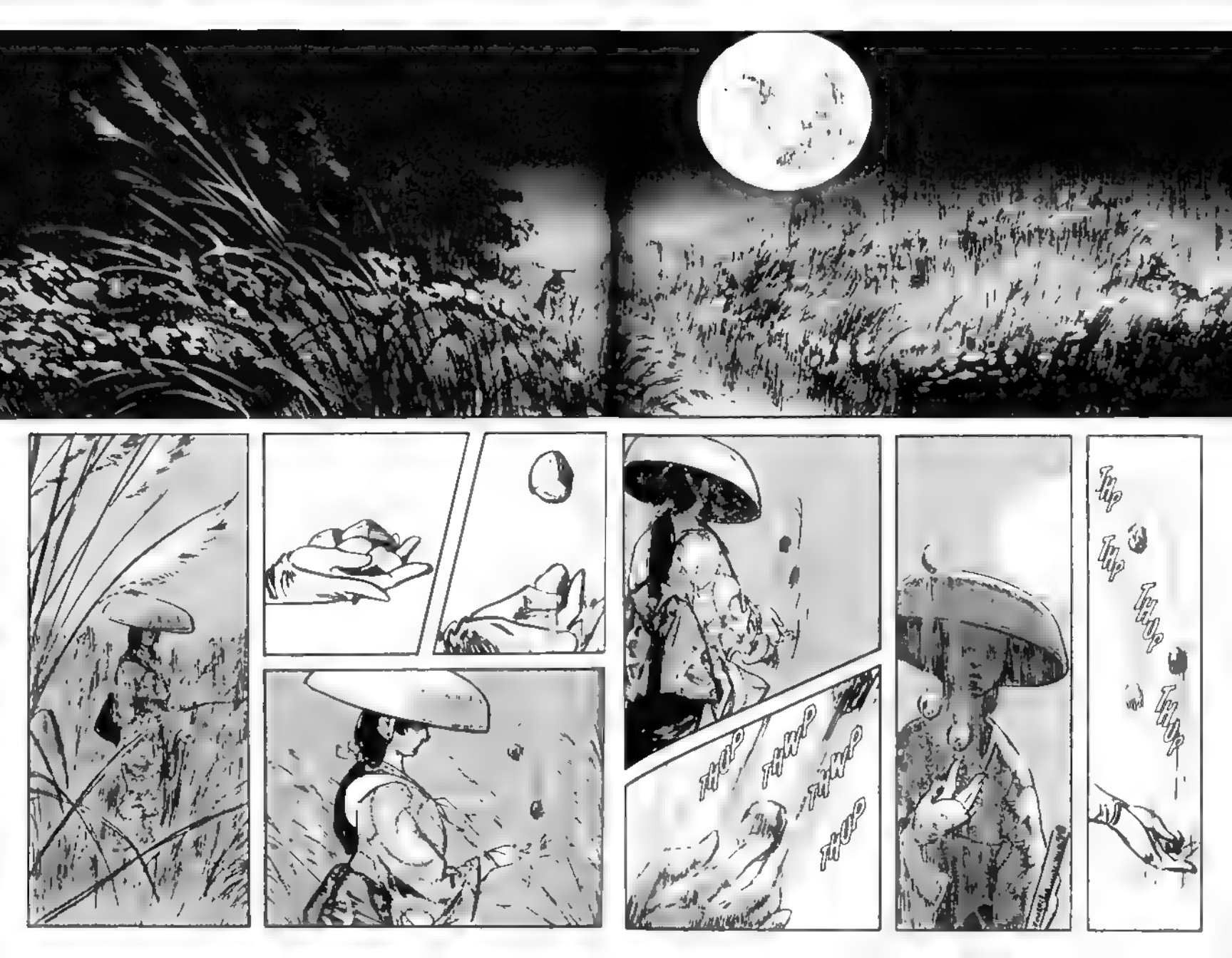

BY FRONTAL ASSAULT IF NEED BE

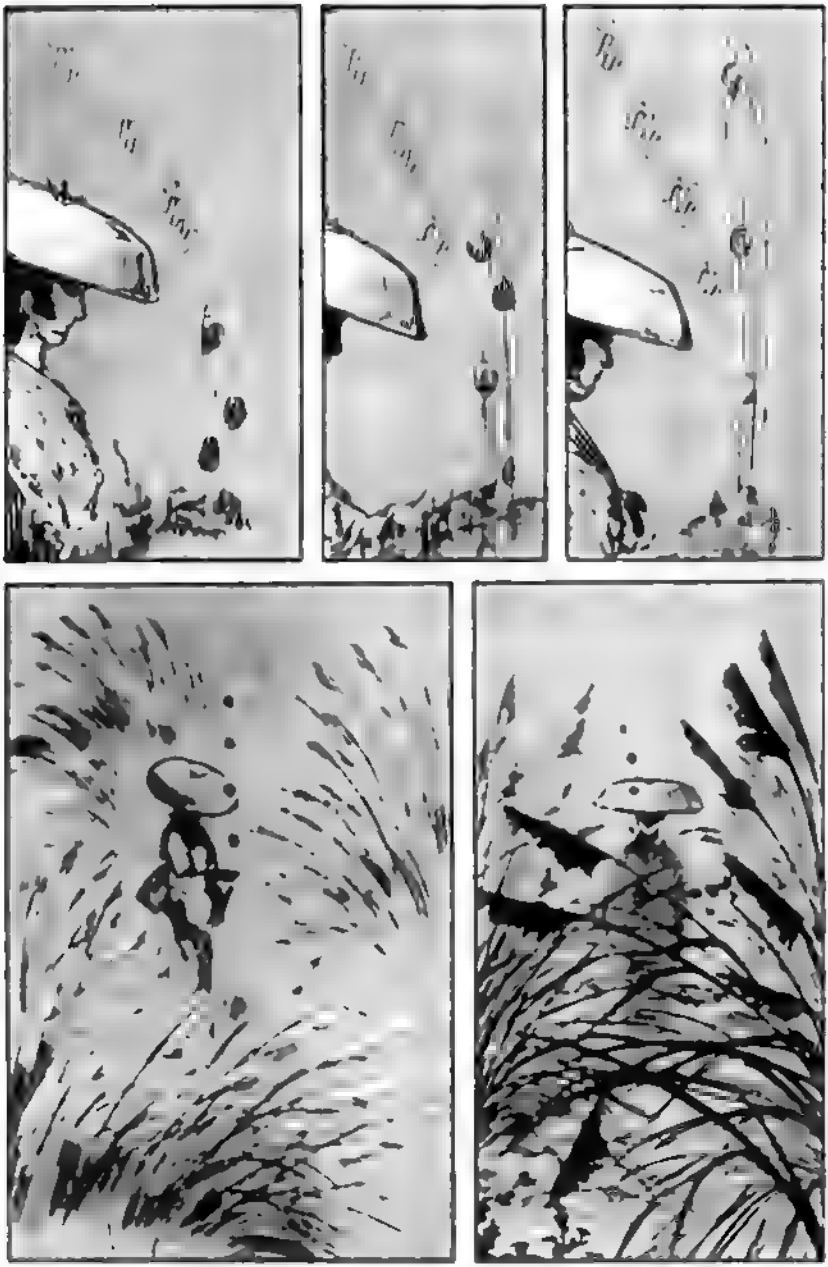


*THE WOLF IS IN THE WEST





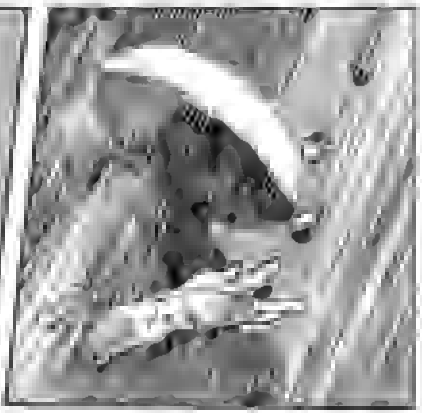

THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP

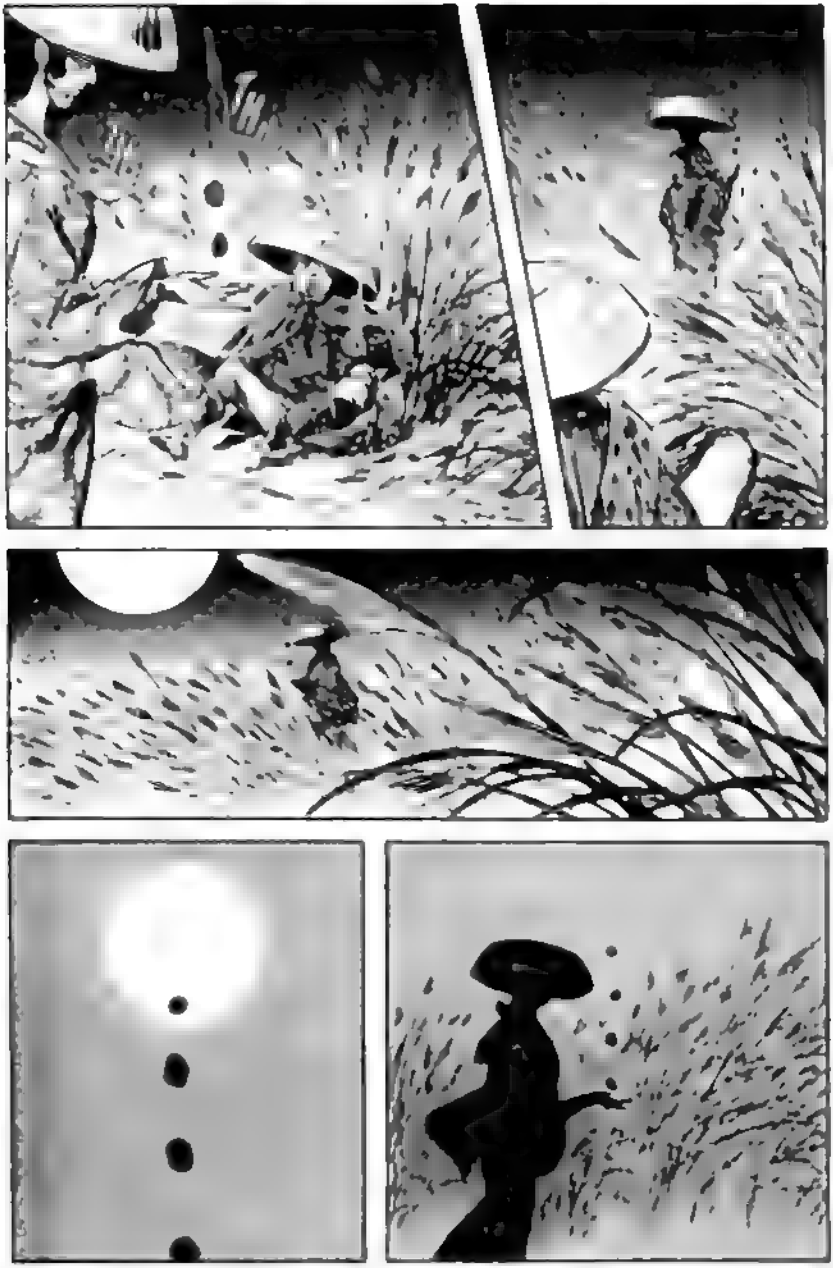


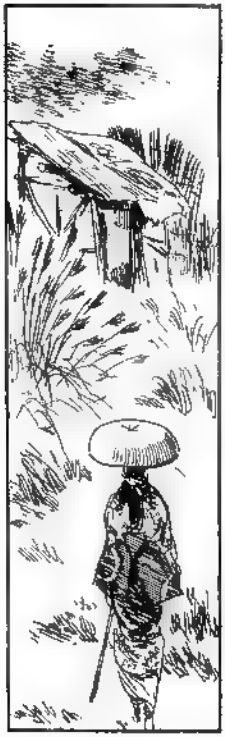
KITTLANE!

WOMAN!!

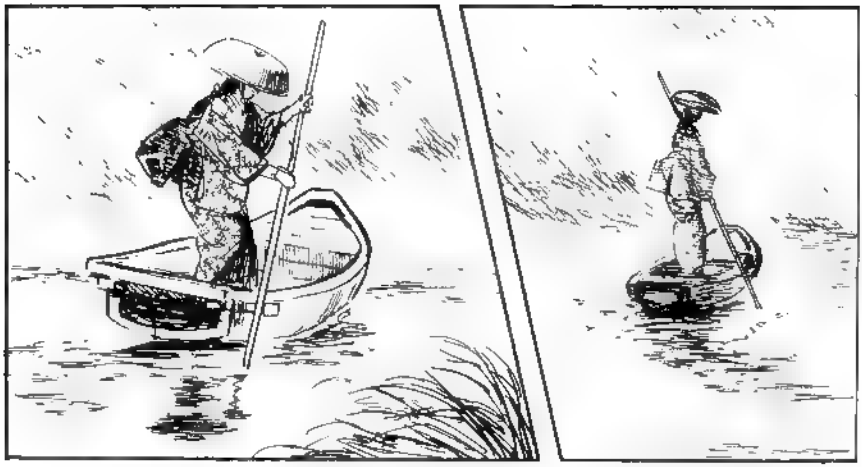
GIEEEEE!!

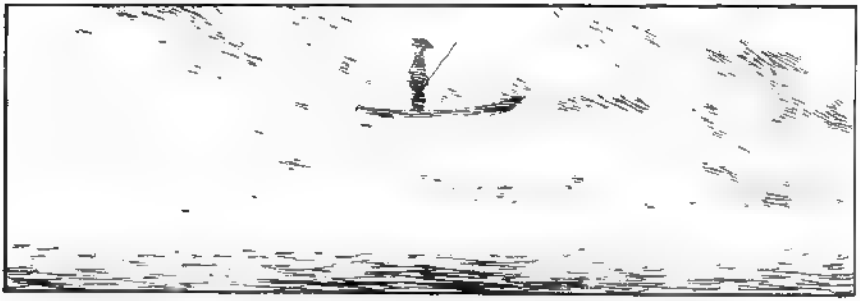


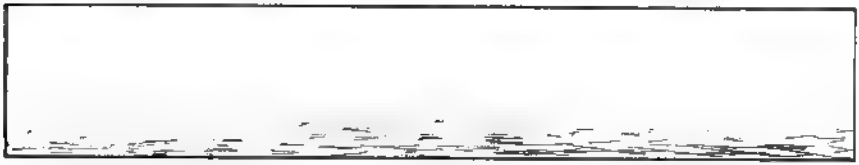


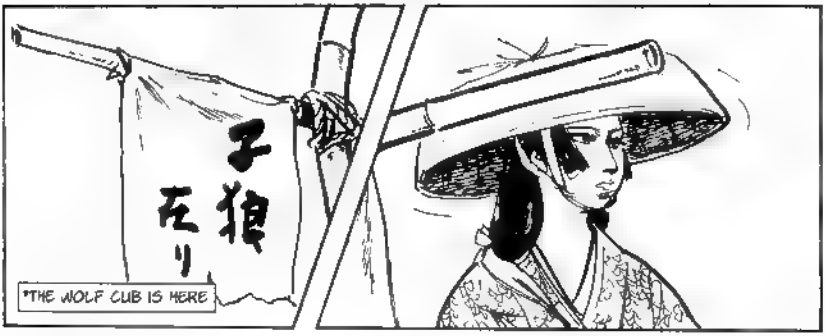


*THE WOLF CROSSES TO THE EAST
狼渡りて
東へ

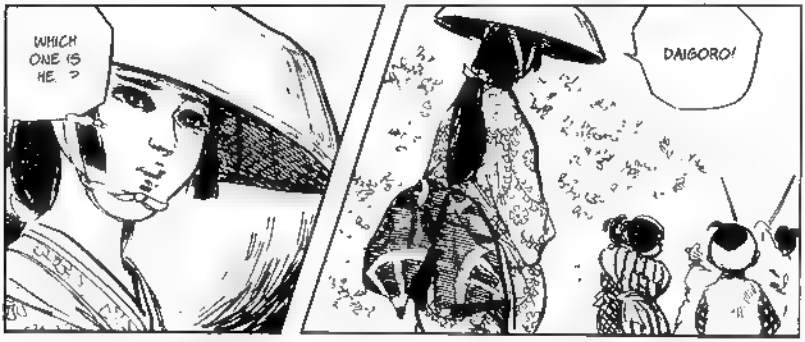


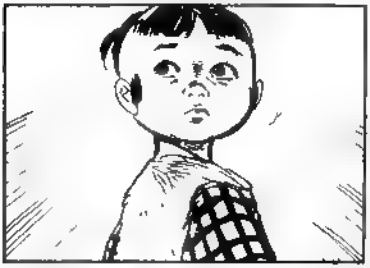


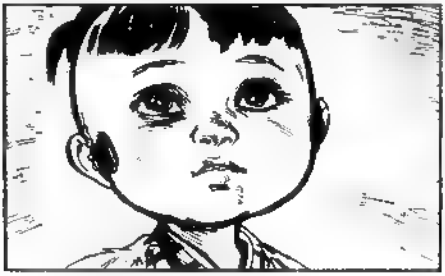



子狼
在り
*THE WOLF CUB IS HERE

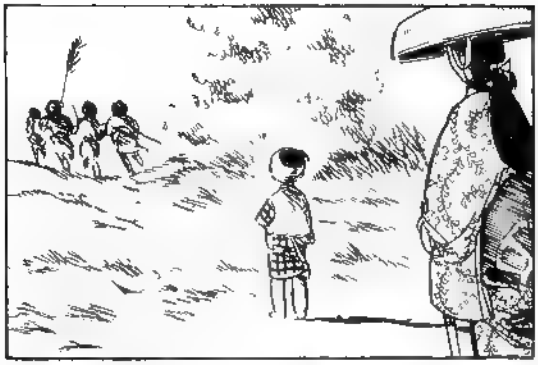
GEK!
WHEE!
ハハハハハ!

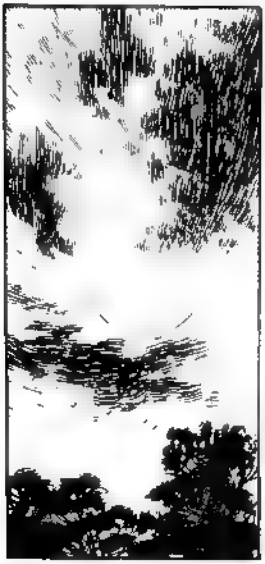

WHICH ONE IS HE. ?
DAIGORO!

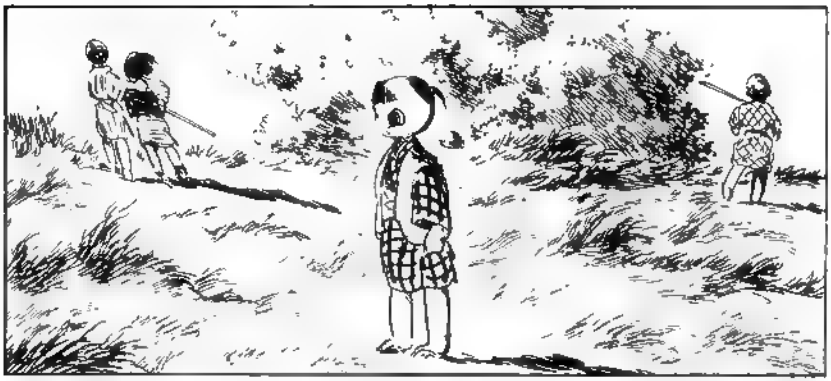


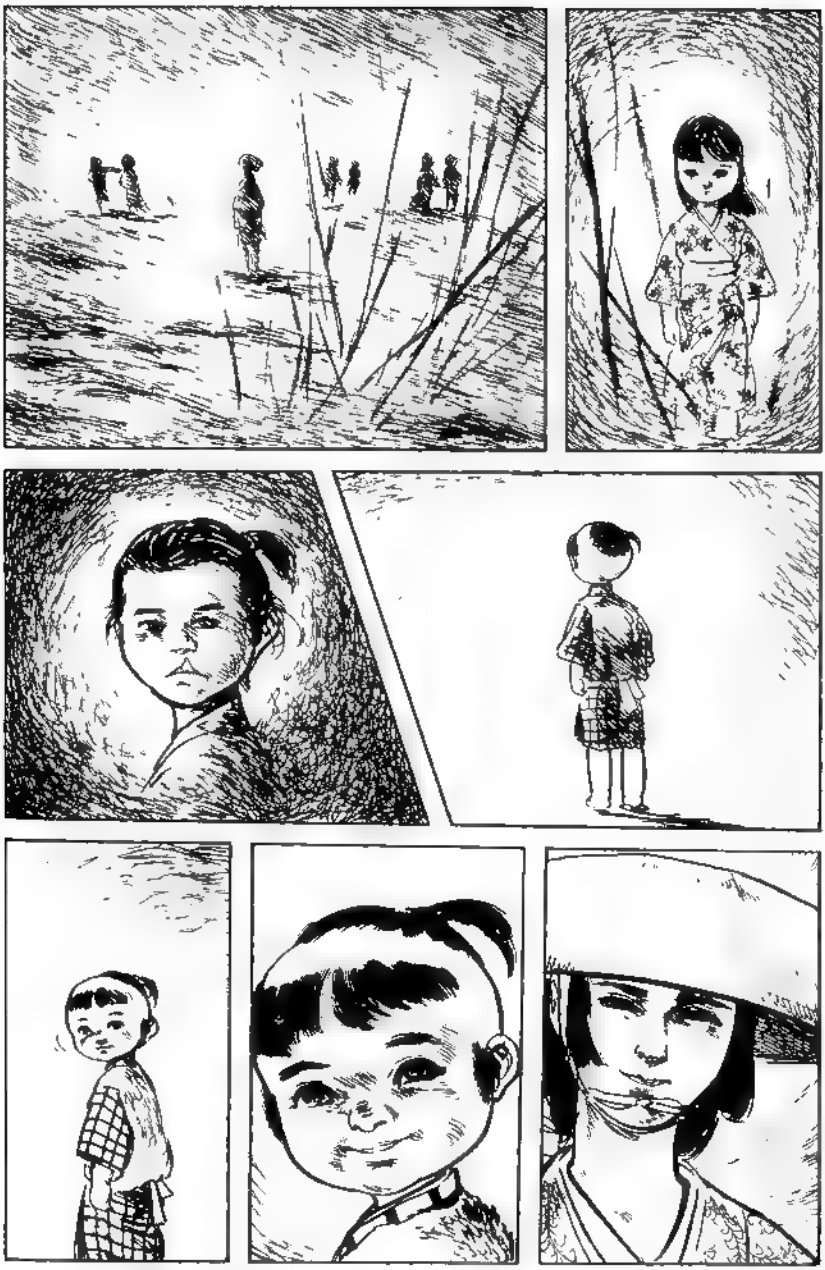


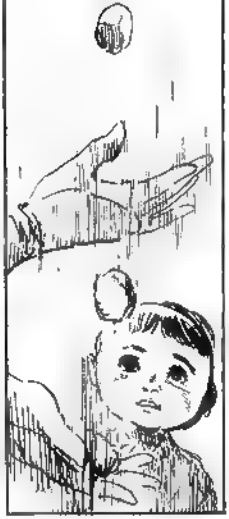
THIS BOY ?

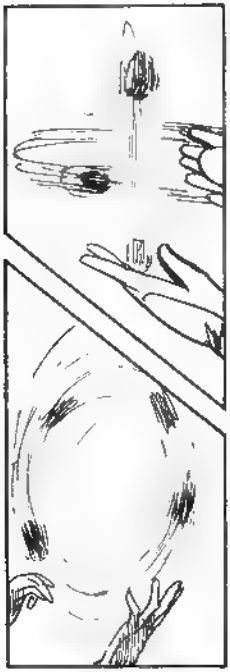








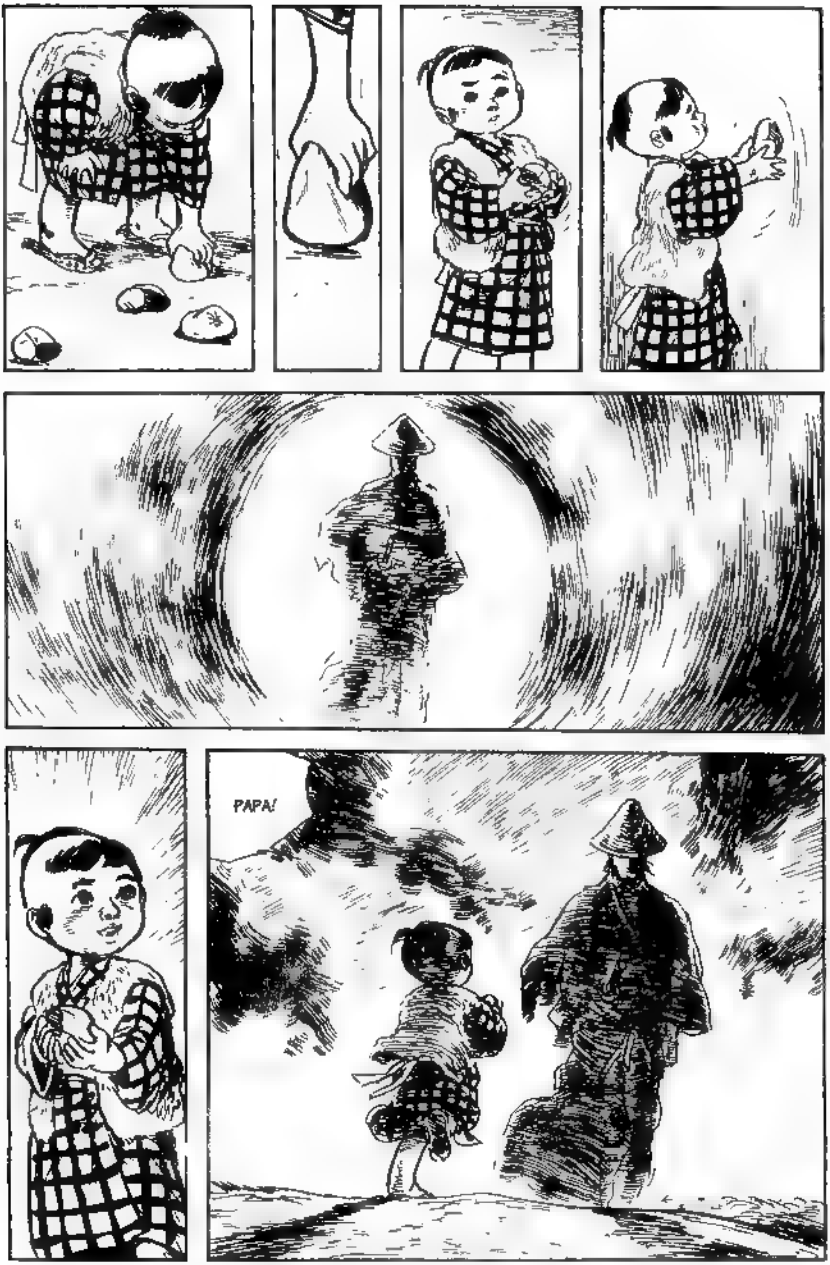




Thup
Thup
Thup
Thup

Thup
Thup
Thup
Thup
Thup
Thup

Thup


PAPA!

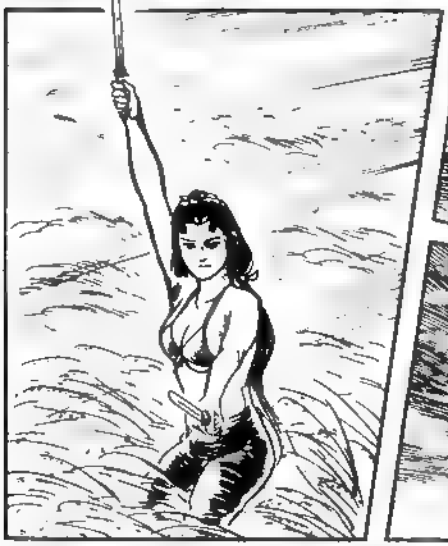
TEDAMA.. FILLED WITH IRON FILINGS?

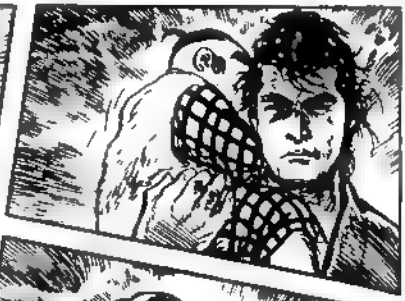
THUP

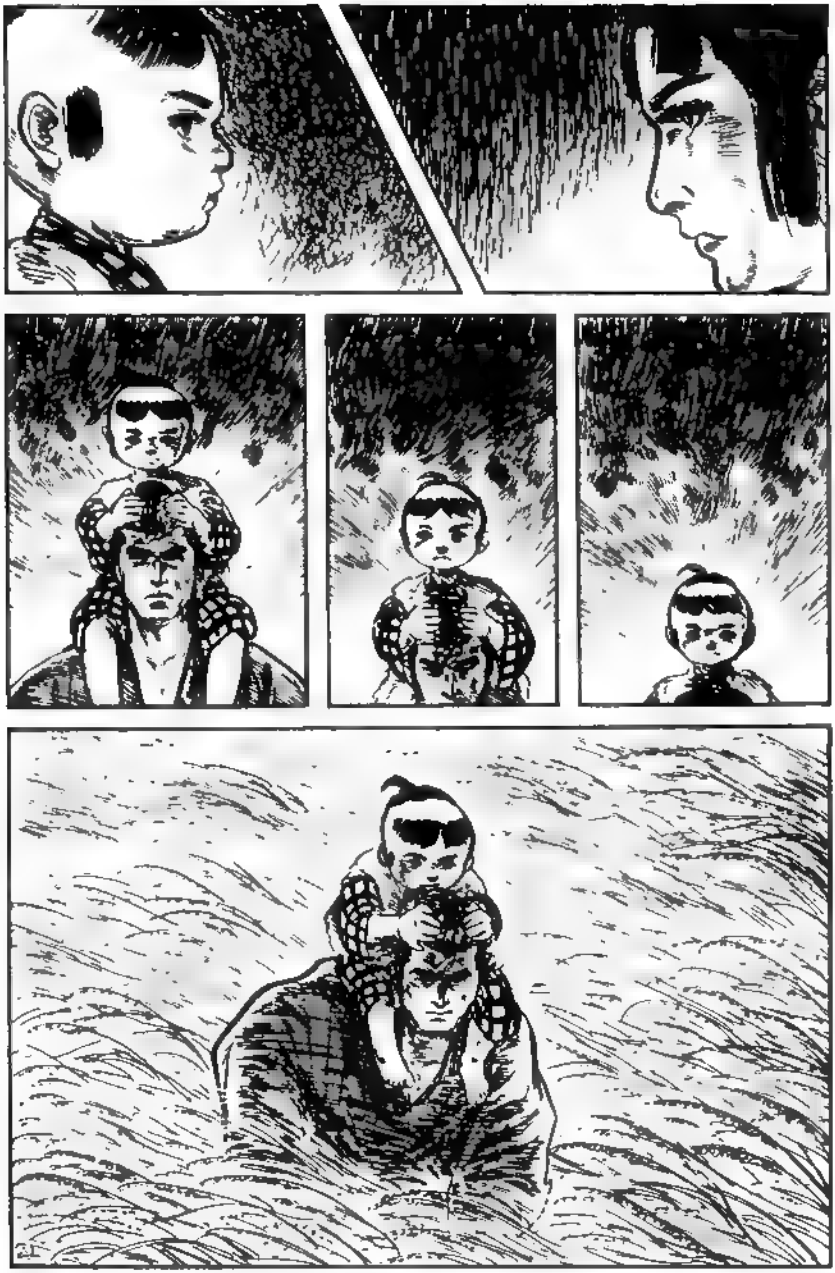
SISTER OF
YASMIN!

HAND! I AM THE
LAST YASMIN!

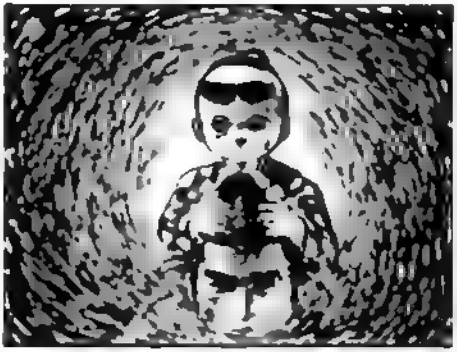
ŌGAMI ITTŌ! FATHER AND SON, I TAKE YOUR LIVES!
CHK
YOU SAID BROTHERS.
I AM RETSUDŌ'S DAUGHTER
COME!

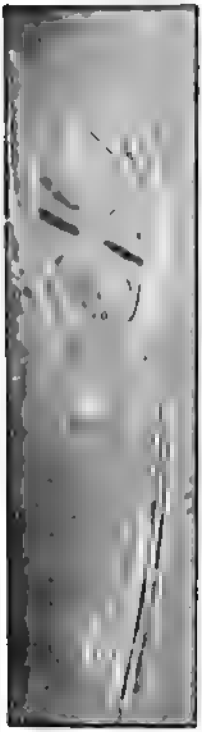






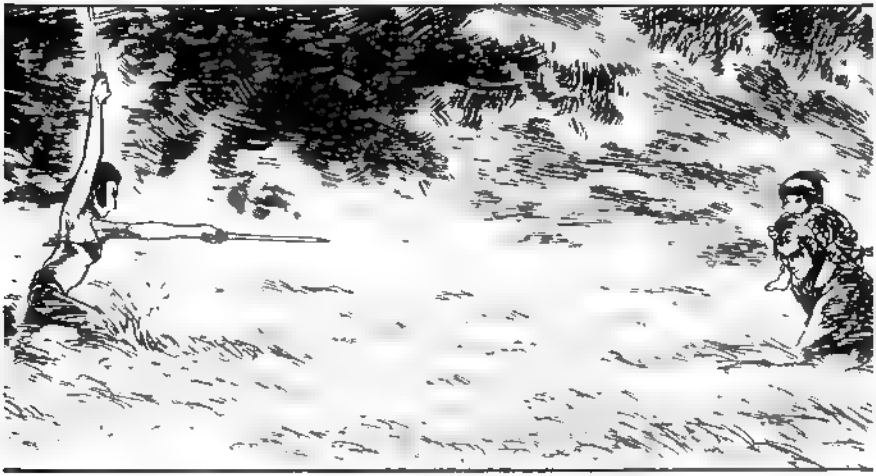
THE ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT





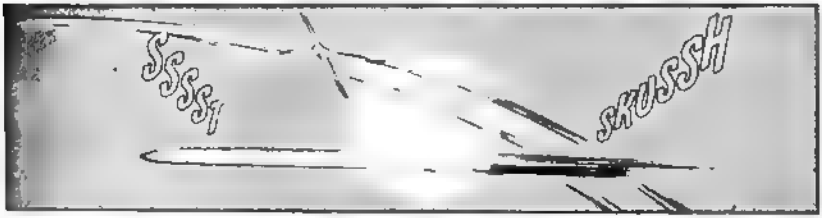
KING

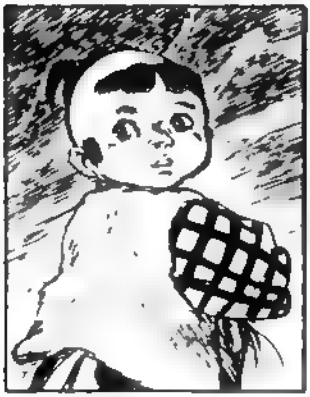
TAUK



FHSS
FHSS

KANGG


SSSSI
SKUSSH

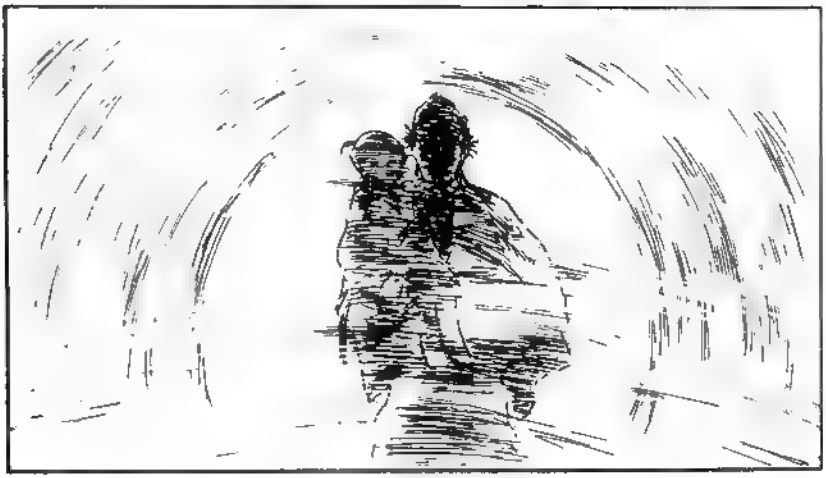


YOUR BOY ON YOUR SHOULDERS WAY?

YOU READ MY DAGGER BUT USED HIM AS A SHIELD

SUCH COWARDICE
IN A FATHER?!

WE LIVE IN MEIFUMADO SPURNING THE SIX WAYS, THE FOUR LIVES.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF YOU WANTED BOTH OUR LIVES



#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net

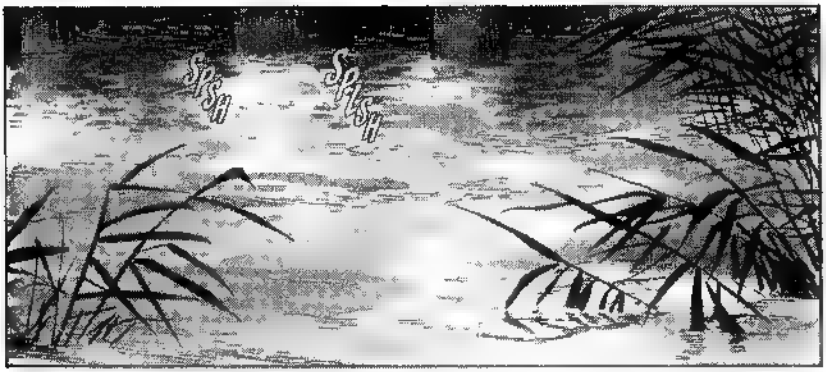
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

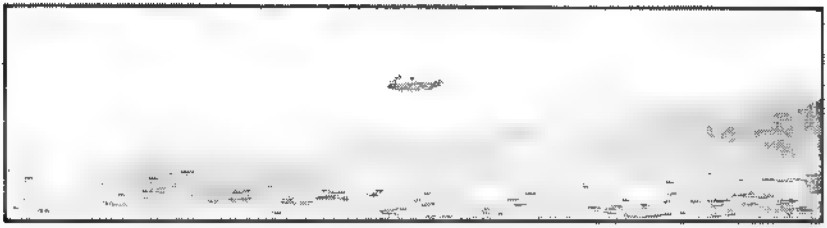
the eightieth

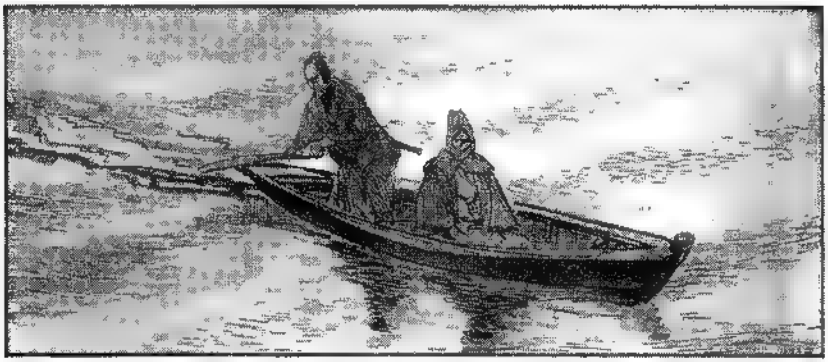
Clouds of Silk

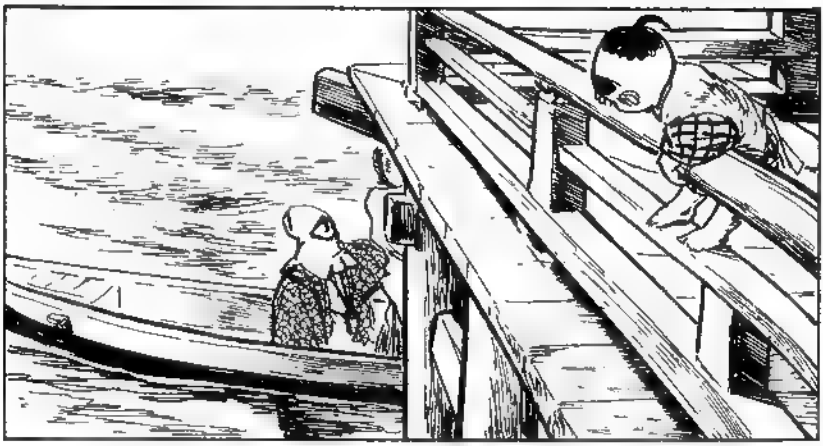
KATATA, ON
THE SHORES
OF LAKE BIWA

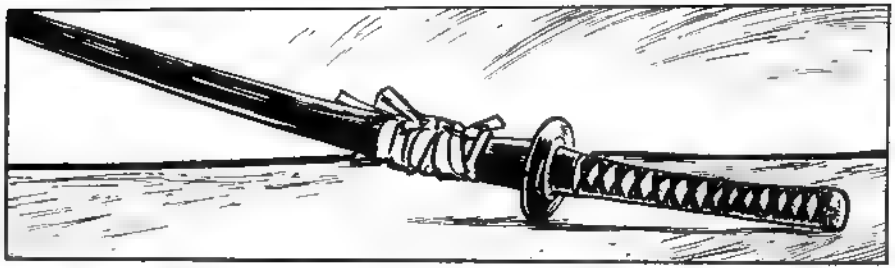
Jet

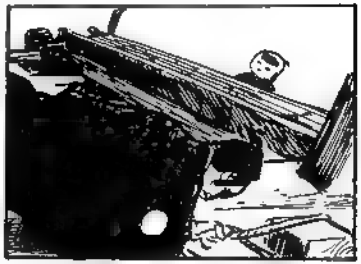

SPSH
SPSH

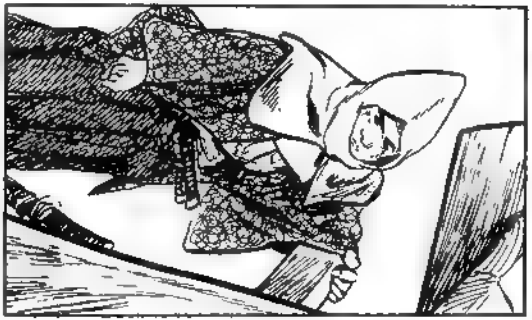


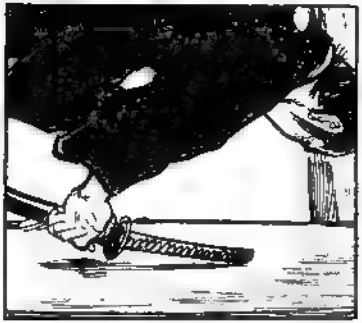










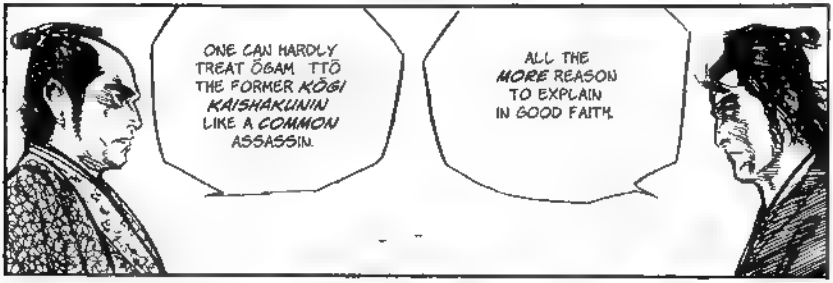


SHIRAI YŪEMON.
Ō-BANGASHIRA
OF ZEZE HAN
ASSASSIN,
LONE WOLF
AND CUB.

WE AGREED BY TRAIL MARKER TO MEET AT *NIGHT*. EXPLAIN!
A REASONABLE REQUEST. A PROMISE MUST BE KEPT, ASSUMING WE *HIRE* YOU.
HOWEVER, WHILE I REGRET WASTING YOUR TIME, I'M HERE TO *REFUSE*.
CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE US TO CANCEL.
FIFTY *RYŌ* IN COMPEN-SATION.
FORGIVE OUR IMPUDENCE, AND ACCEPT IT IN GOOD FAITH.

TELL ME WHY

T'S BETTER FOR *BOTH* OF US THAT I NOT SAY
THEN WHY COME AT *ALL?*
IF THE CLIENT DOESN'T COME, THE CONTRACT IS *NULL AND VOID* THERE'S NO REASON TO TELL ME IN PERSON.


ONE CAN HARDLY TREAT ŌGAMI TTŌ THE FORMER *KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN* LIKE A *COMMON* ASSASSIN.
ALL THE *MORE* REASON TO EXPLAIN IN GOOD FAITH.

IF YOU *SO INSIST* SO BE IT I WAS ONLY THINKING OF *YOU*

IT'S THE *YAGYŪ*

OF COURSE WE KNEW ABOUT YOUR *FEUD* WHEN WE HIRED YOU. BUT THINGS HAVE *CHANGED*

WE HAVE FIRM INTELLIGENCE THAT THE *YAGYŪ* IS LAUNCHING AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST YOU.

THEY'LL BE TELLING THE ENTIRE NATION *TODAY* THAT YOU'RE A *WANTED CRIMINAL*. *DAIMYŌ* AND *DAIKAN* COMMANDED TO *ARREST* YOU.

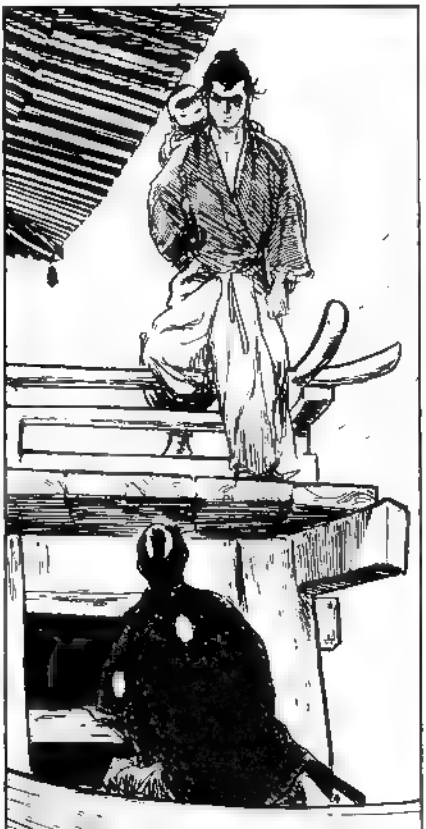
A *YAGYŪ* RIDER SHOULD REACH OUR *HAN* ANY DAY NOW

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU SHALL BE..

NOT THE WANDERING *ASSASSIN*, BUT THE *PURSUED* PREY *HUNTED* DOWN. THINKING ONLY OF *FLEEING* EVEN FROM OUR *HAN*! IF THE *YAGYŪ* COMMANDS, WE *DARE NOT* HIRE YOU!

BUT THEIR ORDERS HAVEN'T ARRIVED NOT *YET* AND SO I'M HERE, DUTY BOUND
ŌGAMI-*DONO*, I OFFER MY BOAT FLEE TO THE NORTH SHORE. ONCE ORDERED, WE *MUST* PURSUE BUT THE NORTH SHORE IS BEYOND OUR JURISDICTION.

I SAY THIS MUCH, COUNTING ON *YOUR* GOOD FAITH.
MY THANKS.



HERE, SIR YOUR CHILD-
SKASSH

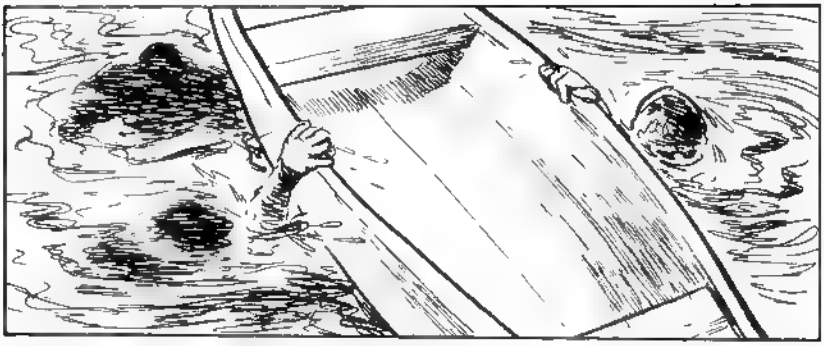
GOOD GOD!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
DOES A SAMURAI STEP ON THE SWORD THAT SHOULD BE HIS SOUL?!

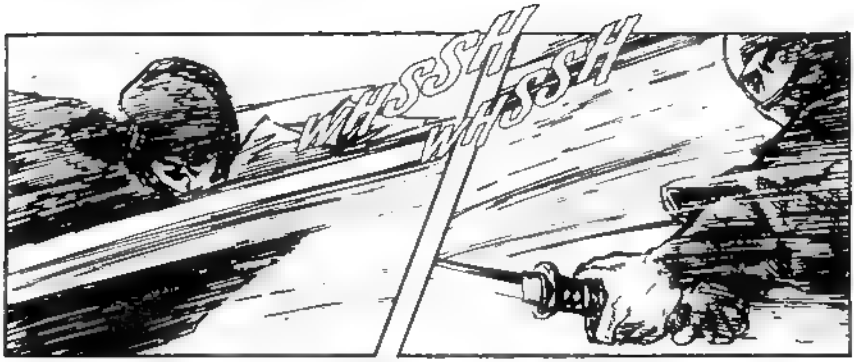
YOU USED YOUR TSUBA TO CLIMB UP HERE! EXPLAIN THAT!

RNG!

WHAT BETTER PROOF, KURO-KUWA?!
WELL DONE, ŌGAMI ITTŌ VERY PERCEPTIVE! THE CONTACT? THE PROPOSED ASSASSINATION? ALL LIES!
YES, WE'RE KUROKUWA!

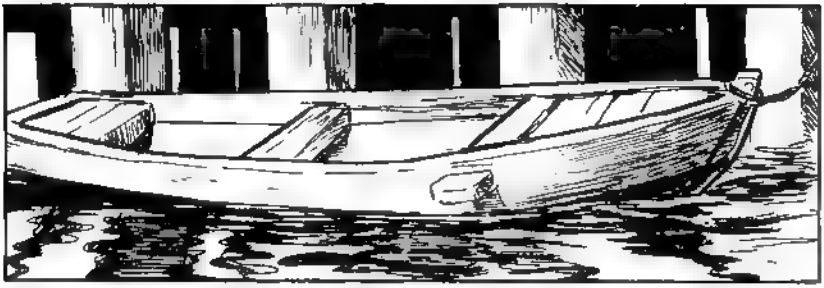


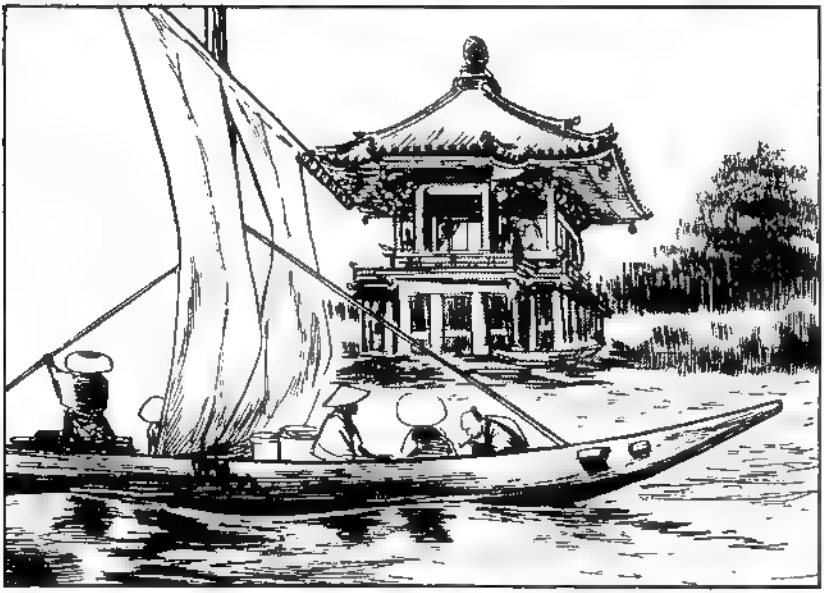
SPLASH

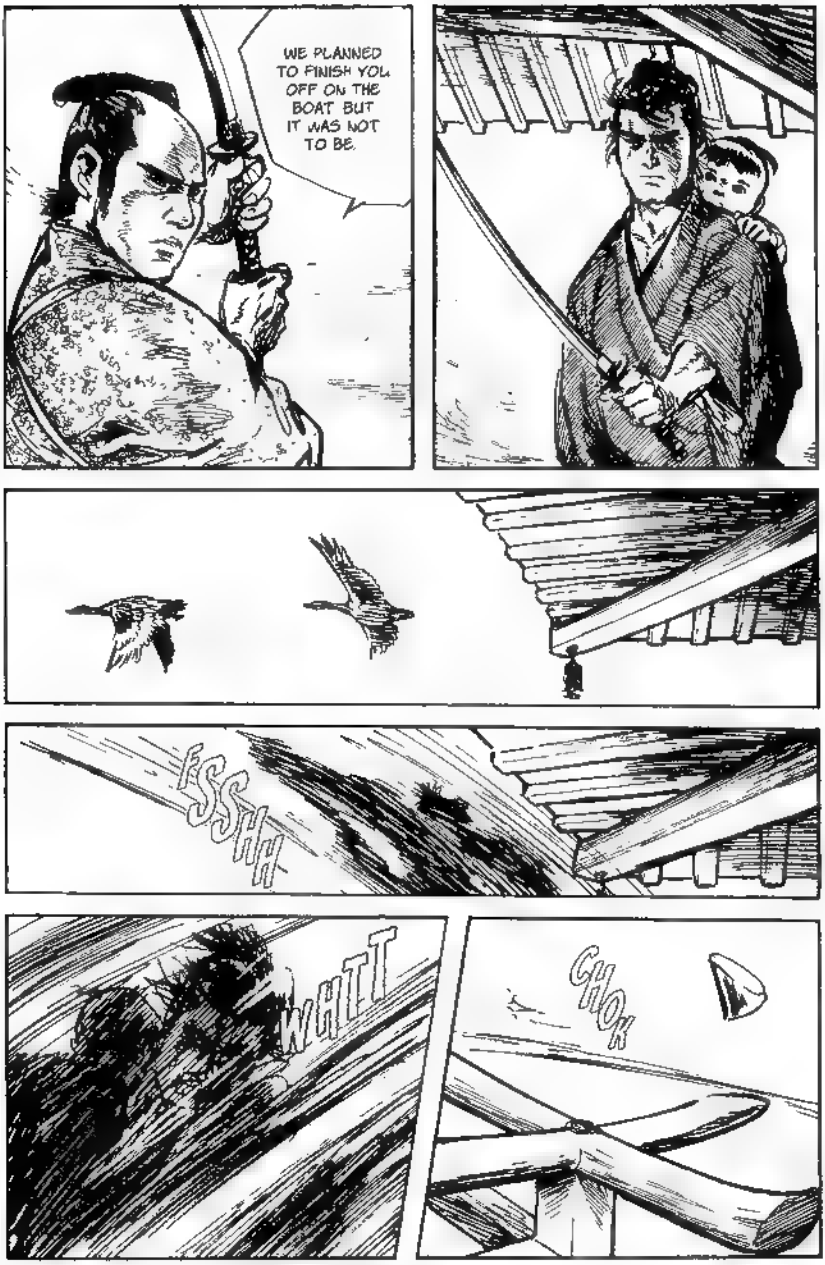

whssh
whssh

FWHTT

KBLOOSH

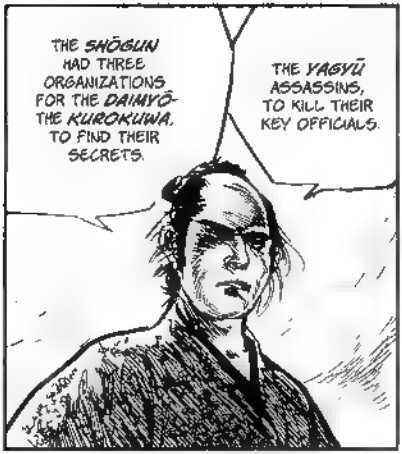





WE PLANNED TO FINISH YOU OFF ON THE BOAT BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE.
ssssh
whitt
chok

I
I'M NOZOKITO KURÔBÊ- THE LAST KUROKUWA.

WITH THE PASSING OF MY LIFE, THE SHÔGUN'S SPY CLAN VANISHES FOREVER
WHY DID YOU REVEAL YOURSELVES BY STEPPING ON THE TSUBA IN FRONT OF ME?
SO WE COULD DIE. WE KNEW WE COULDN'T DEFEAT YOU, NOT EVEN ON THE WATER. YET WHEN THE YAGYU COMMAND, WE MUST OBEY
AND THUS WE CAME FOR DEATH. THE LAST OF OUR CLAN.
IT IS OVER. THE KUROKUWA ARE NO MORE.


THE SHŌGUN HAD THREE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DAIMYŌ— THE KUROKUWA, TO FIND THEIR SECRETS.
THE YAGYŪ ASSASSINS, TO KILL THEIR KEY OFFICIALS.

AND YOU! THE OGAMI CLAN THE KAISHAKUNIN, BEHEADING THE CONDEMNED

TODAY, HERE THE KUROKUWA END
THE YAGYŪ HAVE ONLY RETSUDŌ HIS FIVE HEIRS ALL DEAD.

BUT YOU! YOU STILL HAVE DAIGORO, HEALTHY AND SOUND!

YOU, WHO SHOULD HAVE GONE FIRST, OUTLAST US ALL.
HEH HEH HEH. . . . .
HEAVEN'S PROTECTION OR A CRUEL JOKE ?

SO DO I *HATE* YOU? *YOU*, WHO KILLED OZUNE AND MY COMRADES?
WHY MUST *MY* LINE PERISH THIS WAY? I ONLY WANTED TO FIND THE *GUILTY* MAKE THEM *PAY*

NO! ALL BLAME RESTS WITH THE *YAGYŪ! THEY'RE* RESPONSIBLE! FIRST THEY MADE *YOU* AN OUTCAST FOR THEIR OWN *GLORY!*
THEN THEY *DOOMED* MY CLAN, *KILLED* T THE DAY THEY FORCED OUR OBEDIENCE! IT'S THE *YAGYŪ* WE HATE.

AND THUS WE CAME TO DIE. *REVEALED* OURSELVES. *PERISHED* ON YOUR SWORD
TOO WEAK TO STRIKE AGAINST THE HATED *YAGYŪ* OURSELVES.
THIS I TELL YOU, AS THE LAST *KUROKUWA*.

ALL I HAVE SAID IS TRUE! THE *YAGYŪ* HAVE UNCHAINED THE WHIRLWIND! WITHIN TWO DAYS, THEIR RIDERS WILL REACH EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND!

:KOFF:
THERE'S ONLY ONE ESCAPE. EXPOSE THE YAGYŪ LETTER!

THEN THE SECRET ?!
I CANNOT TELL
AS THE LAST OF OUR CLAN, I MUST NOT SHOULD PEOPLE HEAR IT CAME FROM OUR LIPS

OUR NAME WOULD BE DISHONORED FOR ALL TIME. EVEN SHINOBI EVEN IN DEATH WE VALUE HONOR MY NAME IS NOTHING. BUT THE NAME OF THE KUROKUWA

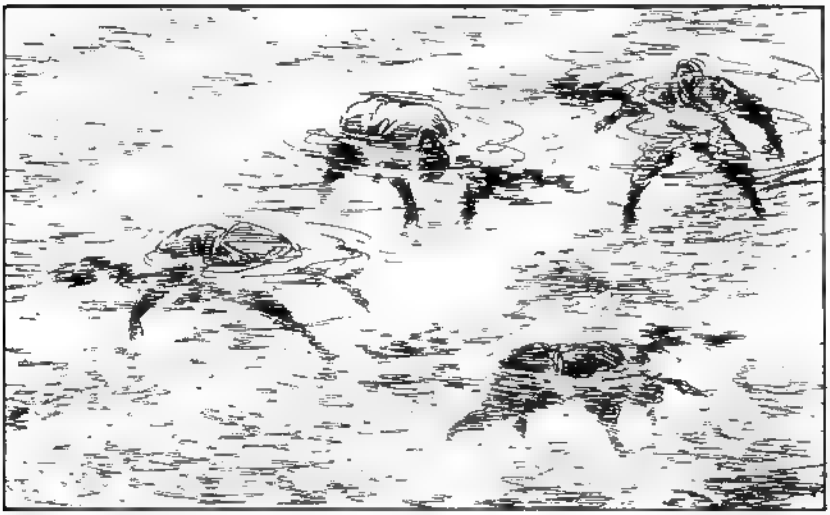
ITTŌ! FIND THE SECRET! TELL THE WORLD! FIGHT THE YAGYŪ IN OPEN BATTLE!
IF NOT, THE SUN SETS ON YOU AS WELL

BEHOLD CLOUDS OF SILK SO BEAUTIFUL
CLOUDS OF SILK LIKE SHINOBI SPREADING OVER THE COUNTRY
AND THEN.
SCATTERING AWAY . . . .

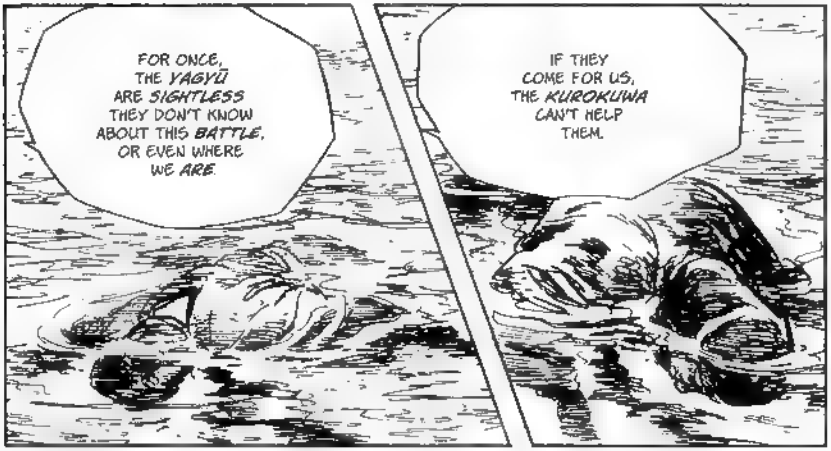
"CLOUDS OF SILK" ?
TRULY THE LAST KURO-KUWA.
TRYING TO DRAG BOTH THE YAGYU AND US DOWN WITH YOU. YOU'VE SET THE STAGE FOR THE FINAL ACT, AND WE MUST DRAW BACK THE CURTAIN.

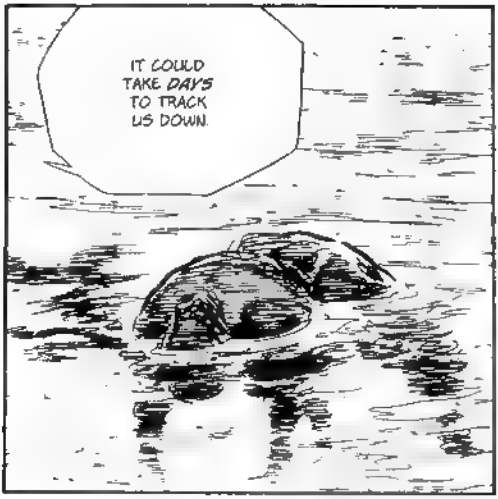
COME FOR US, WILL YOU, YAGYŪ RETSUDŌ?!

HE CALLED HIMSELF THE *LAST* HE WAS TELLING US THAT THE SPIES THAT FOLLOWED US EVERYWHERE
ARE *GONE* *ALL* OF THEM.



NORMALLY ONE WOULD ESCAPE.
BUT THEY *ALL* STAYED TO DIE.


FOR ONCE, THE *YAGYŪ* ARE *SIGHTLESS*. THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS *BATTLE*, OR EVEN WHERE WE *ARE*.
IF THEY COME FOR US, THE *KUROKUWA* CAN'T HELP THEM.


IT COULD TAKE DAYS TO TRACK US DOWN.

TIME
THAT'S WHAT THE LAST KUROKUWA GRANTED US

TIME TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY AND MEET THE YAGYŪ HEAD ON.

THE KUROKUWA'S LAST STRATAGEM, AND THE REVENGE OF THOSE DOOMED TO DIE.

LAKE BIWA, LARGEST IN JAPAN. DRAW A LINE FROM KATATA TO KOHAMA ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE– TO THE NORTH, *GREATER BIWA*. TO THE SOUTH, *LESSER BIWA*.

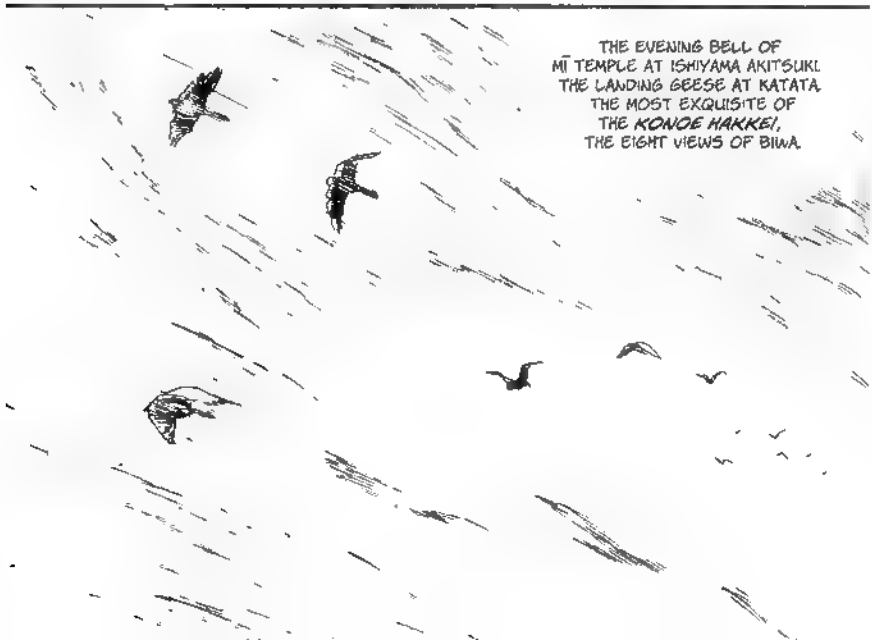
GREATER BIWA IS CHOPPY AND WIND-WRACKED LESSER BIWA, FLAT AND CALM, WITH PLENTIFUL ANCHORAGES.

FOLLOWING THE ADMONITIONS OF THE LAST *KUROKUWA* FATHER AND SON SCULLED THEIR FRAIL CRAFT *NORTH*

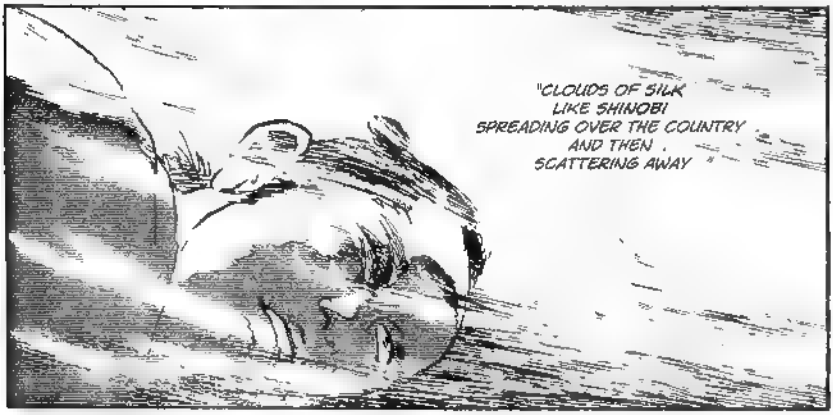
KRRRK
KRRRK

KRRRK
KRRRK
KRRRK

KRRRK


THE EVENING BELL OF
MI TEMPLE AT ISHIYAMA AKITSUKI,
THE LANDING GEESE AT KATATA,
THE MOST EXQUISITE OF
THE *KONOE HAKKEI*,
THE EIGHT VIEWS OF BIWA.

"CLOUDS OF SILK
SO BEAUTIFUL


"CLOUDS OF SILK
LIKE SHINOBI
SPREADING OVER THE COUNTRY
AND THEN .
SCATTERING AWAY "

CLOUDS OF SILK
"CLOUDS OF SILK" MMM.

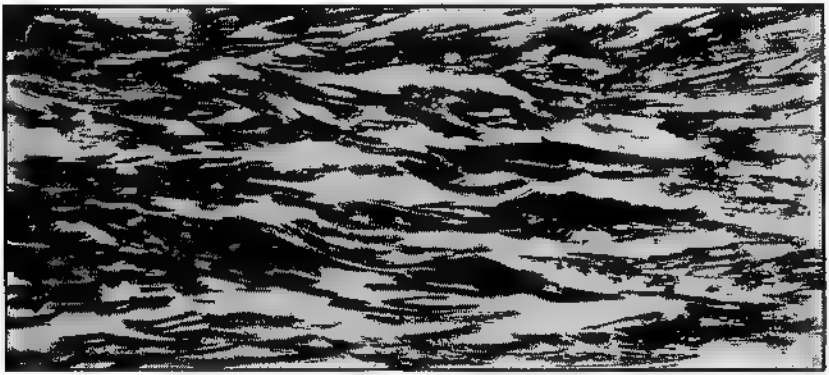
NO. TOO SENTIMENTAL! NOT THE LAST WORDS OF A NINJA.

SO, ANOTHER MEANING...?

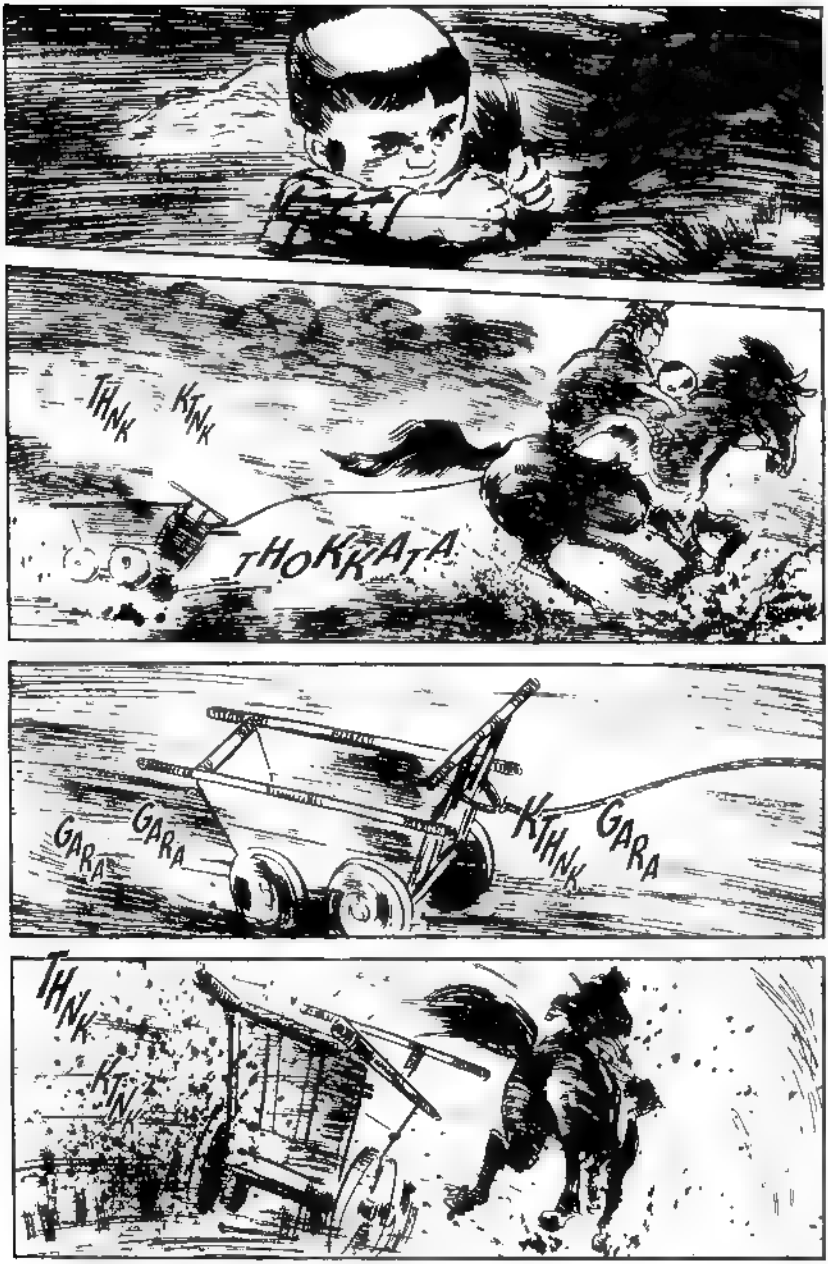
THE YAGYŪ GRASS THEY SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY..

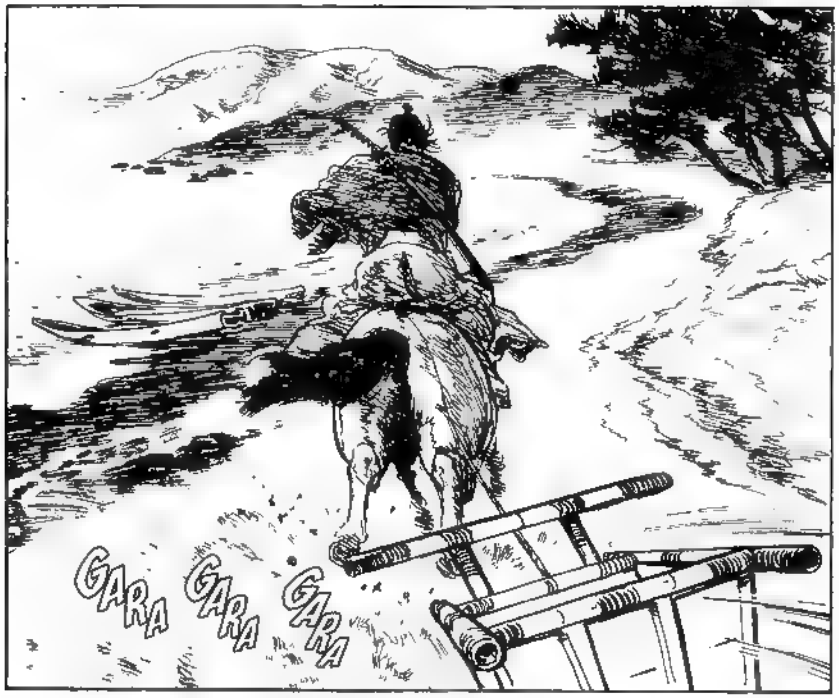
AHH!
THE KEY TO THE YAGYŪ LETTER

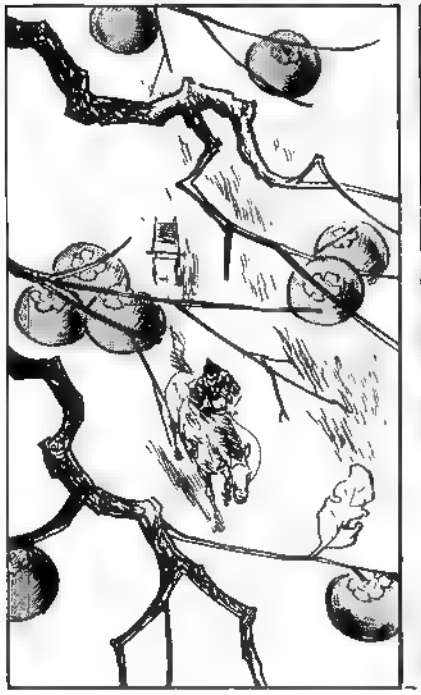
SILK?!



THOKKA
THOKKA

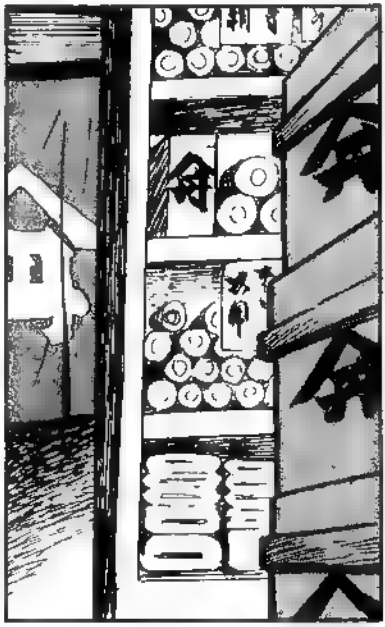

THNK KTNK
THOKKATA
GARA GARA
KTHNK GARA
THNK KTNK

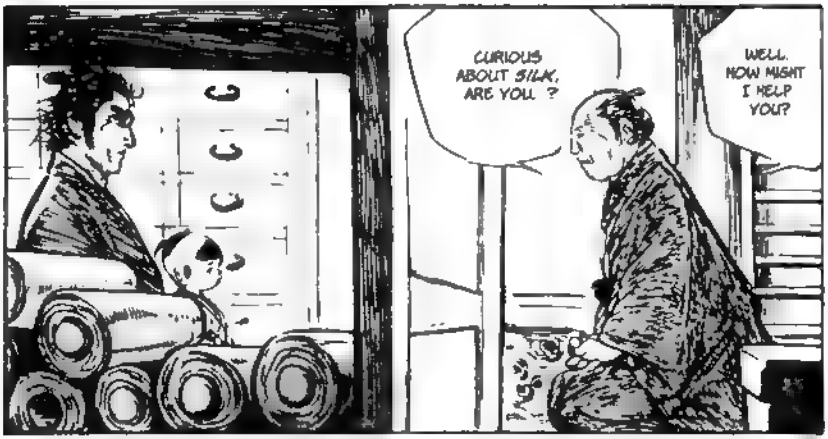

GARA GARA GARA

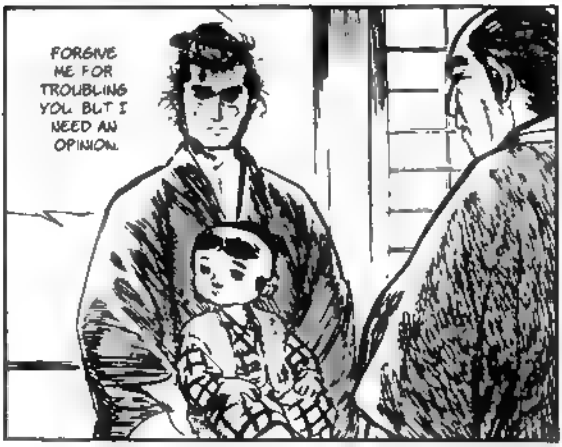


TANBA SHINOYAMA

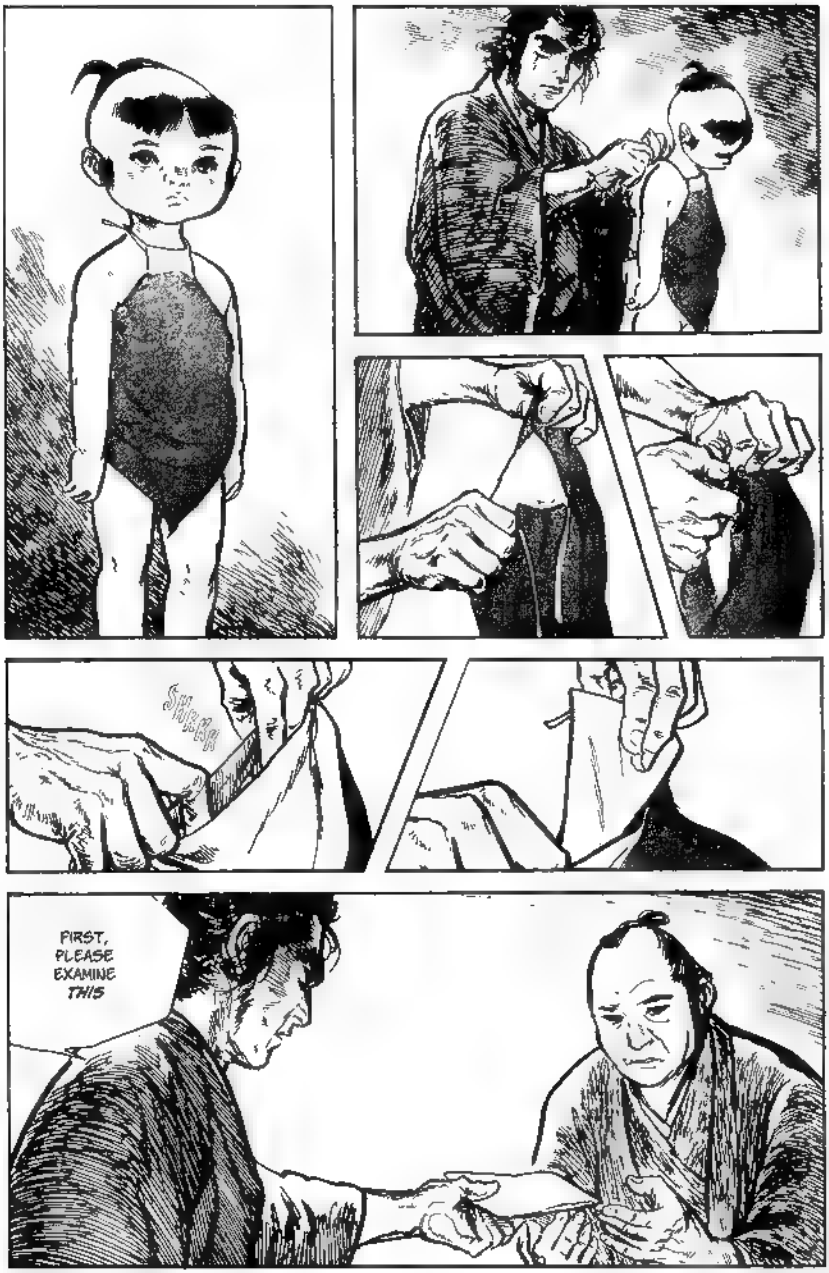
つむぎ
ちりめん
*KIMONO FABRIC
RAW SILK




CURIOUS ABOUT SILK, ARE YOU ?
WELL. HOW MIGHT I HELP YOU?

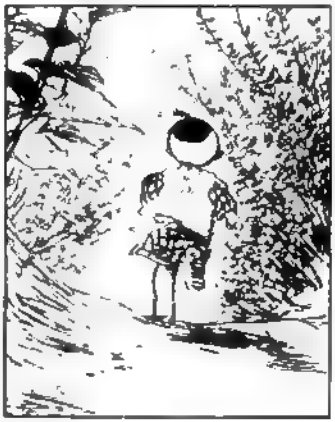

FORGIVE ME FOR TROUBLING YOU BUT I NEED AN OPINION.

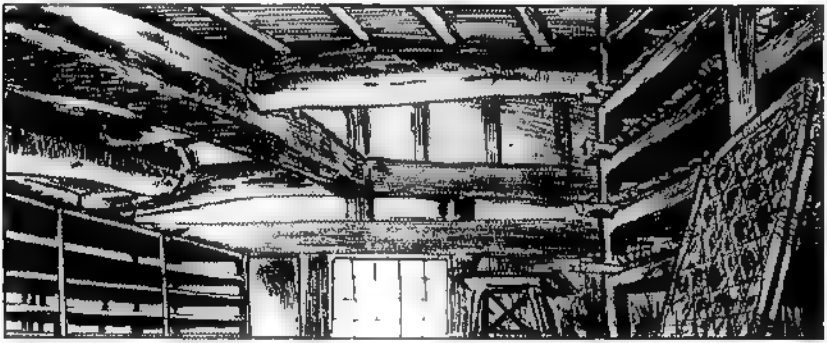
DAIGORO


SUREN
FIRST, PLEASE EXAMINE THIS

THIS LETTER CONCERNS SILK?
SOMETHING ABOUT SILK, THIS MUCH I KNOW BUT I NEED YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO DISCOVER WHAT
IT MIGHT BE THE PAPER ITSELF OR EVEN THE WAY IT'S MADE.

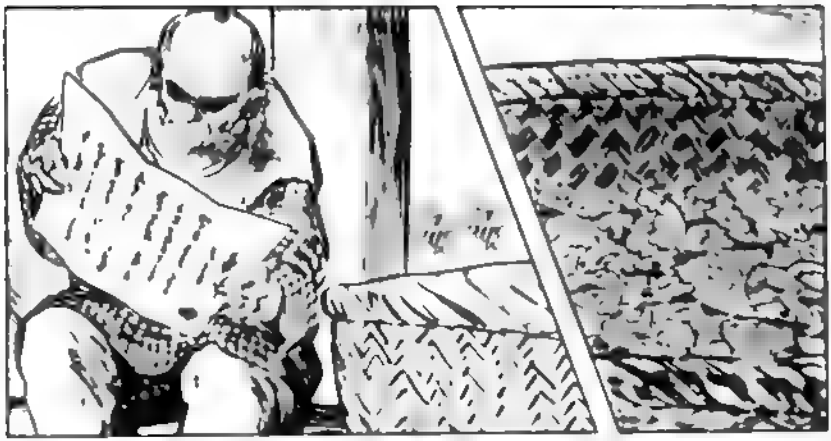
ALAS, I HAVEN'T A CLUE.
IF IT WAS FABRIC, I COULD TELL YOU WHERE IT WAS MADE, BUT...
COULD THERE BE SILK THREADS IN THE PAPER?
NO NOT THAT IT'S PAPER PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
SOMETHING ABOUT THE SUMI? OR PERHAPS THE SEAL?
WELL.
A SIMILARITY BETWEEN WEAVING AND PAPER-MAKING...?
FOR THAT I HAVE THE PERFECT MAN.
"SILKWORM TOKUBĒ," THE BEST SERICULTURIST I KNOW. HE FOUND A WAY TO RAISE SPRING SILKWORMS DEEP INTO AUTUMN. CHILLS THEIR EGGS, I HEAR. REMARKABLE MAN. I THINK HE COULD HELP.
MY THANKS



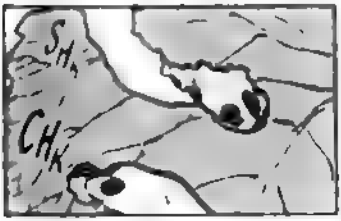


THE TEXT ITSELF WAS WRITTEN WITH AN INK MADE WITH PHOSPHORESCENT *MOSS*.
IT EMITS LIGHT AND CAN BE READ IN THE DARK.

I'VE TRIED FIRE, WATER, AND ACID
BUT SO FAR NOTHING.

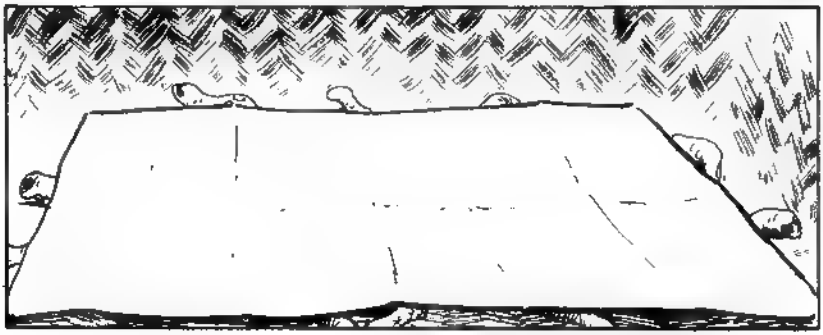


CHKK
SHK

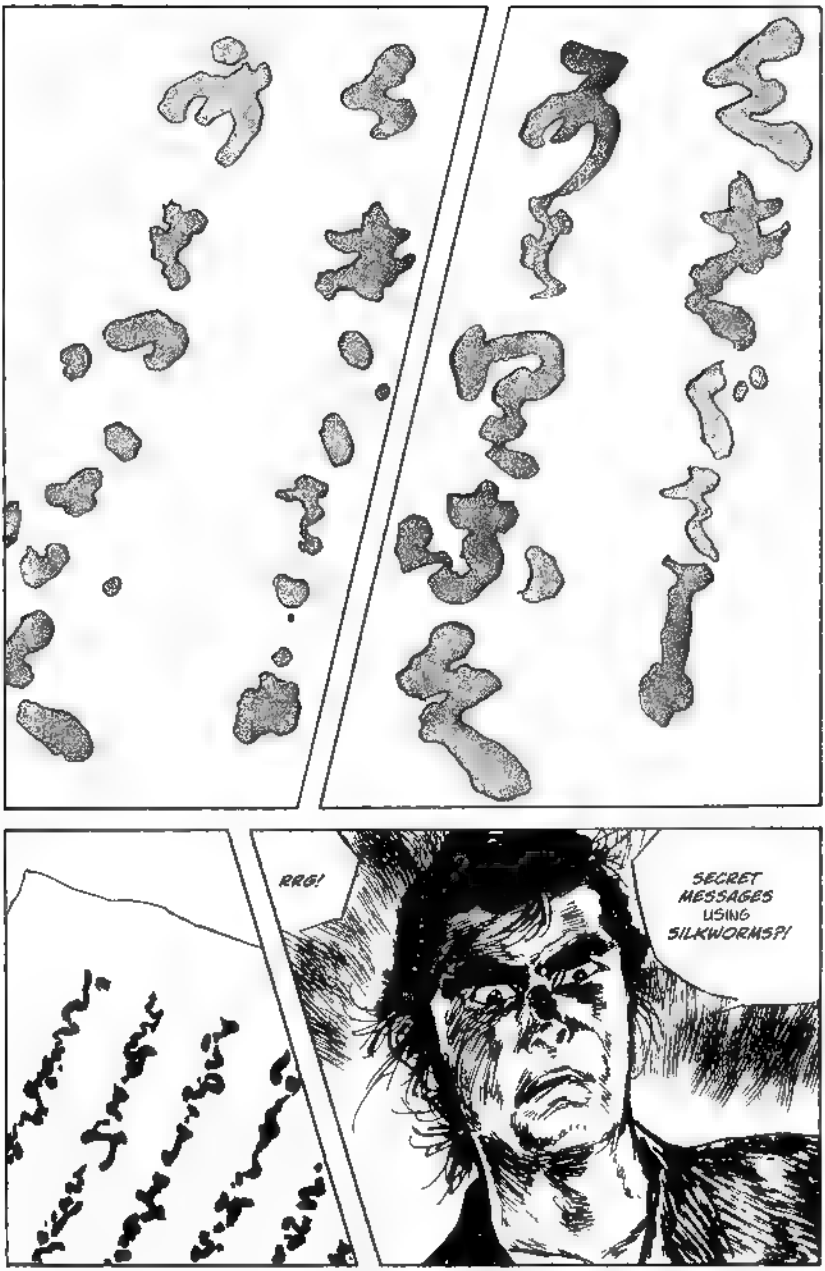

SH
CHK

CHIK
CHKK

SMELLS LAIK MULBERRY.
SNIF
SNIF
YEP— THET'S IT!
IT EVEN TASTES LAIK MULBERRY!



Sus
Sus
AH.
...!


RRG!
SECRET MESSAGES USING SILKWORMS?!

WRITTEN WITH A MULBERRY EXTRACT? OR STAINED INTO THE PAPER WHEN IT WAS MADE?

THIS THIS IS THE REAL YAGYŪ LETTER
....!

THIS WILL SHAKE THE NATION!

WE'VE BROKEN THE SECRET OF THE YAGYŪ LETTER!
RETSUDŌ! VENGEANCE SHALL BE OURS!

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net

presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

the eighty-first

Demon Hide, Demon Seek

IT'S TIME TO BURY *LONE WOLF AND CUB*— BY *FRONTAL ASSAULT!*

SEND RIDERS TO ALL THE *DAIMYŌ* OF ALL THE *HAN!* ALL THE *DAIKAN* OF ALL SHŌGUNATE TERRITORIES!

ARREST "LONE WOLF AND CUB"! REAL NAMES, *ŌGAMI ITTŌ* AND HIS SON, *DAIGORO!*

IF THEY CAN'T *ARREST* THEM— *KILL THEM!* PART THE VERY BLADES OF *GRASS* TO HUNT THEM DOWN!

THE LAW OF THE LAND DEMANDS WE EXECUTE [illegible] HIS LIVING BY [illegible]

IT'S FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD! JUSTICE STANDS WITH [illegible]

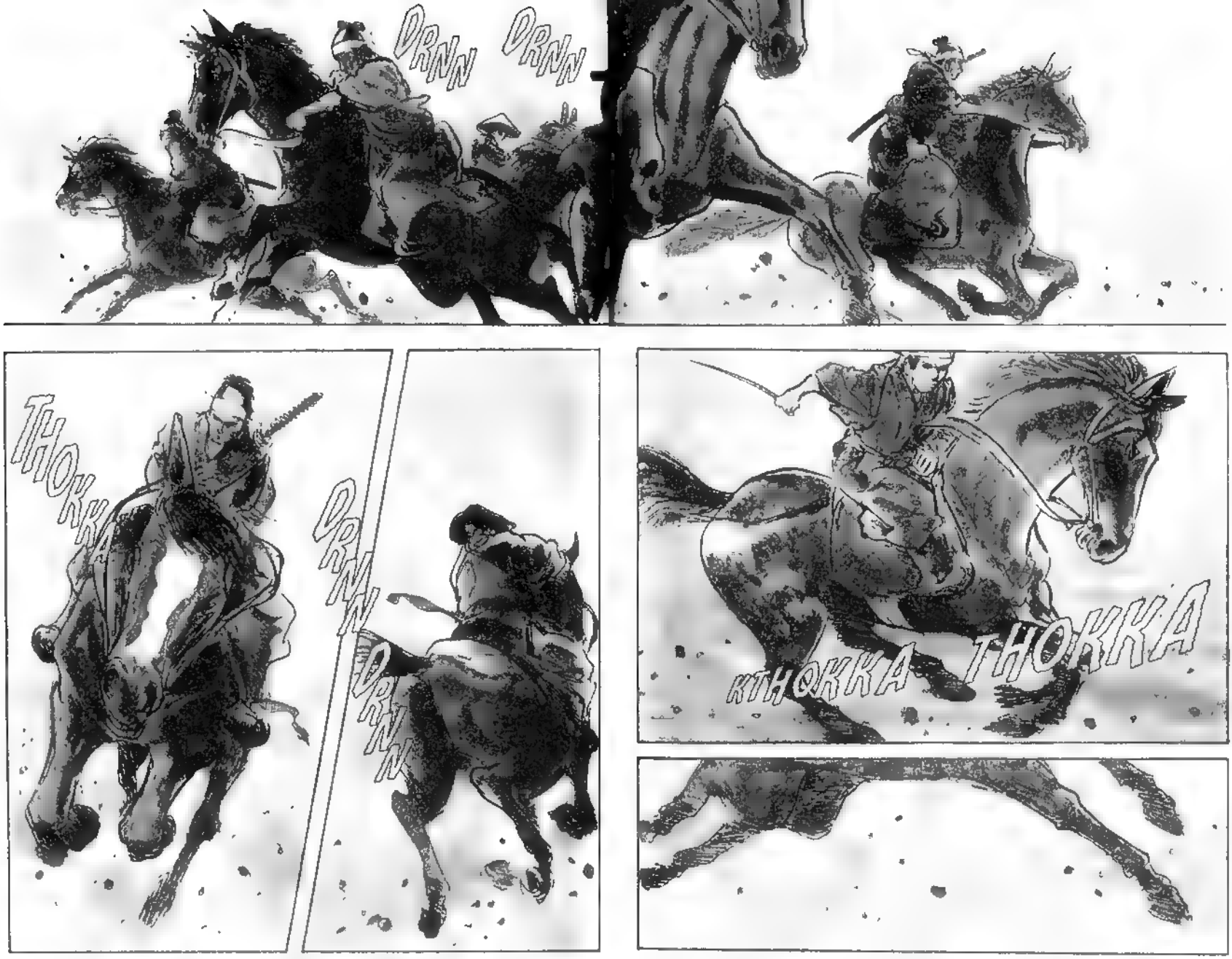
CURSE YOU, ŌGAMI ITTŌ!

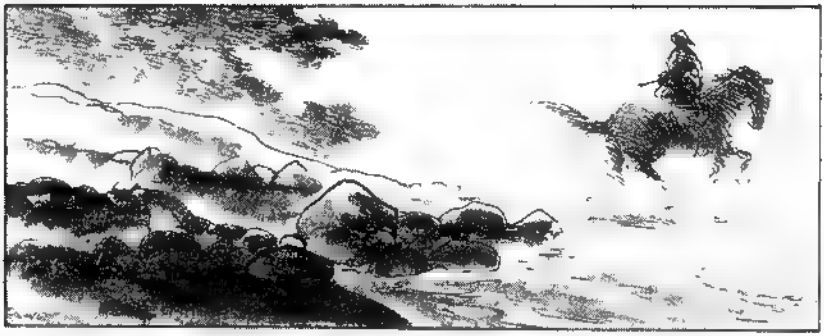
[illegible] SIXTY STATES OF JAPAN [illegible] YOU DOWN!

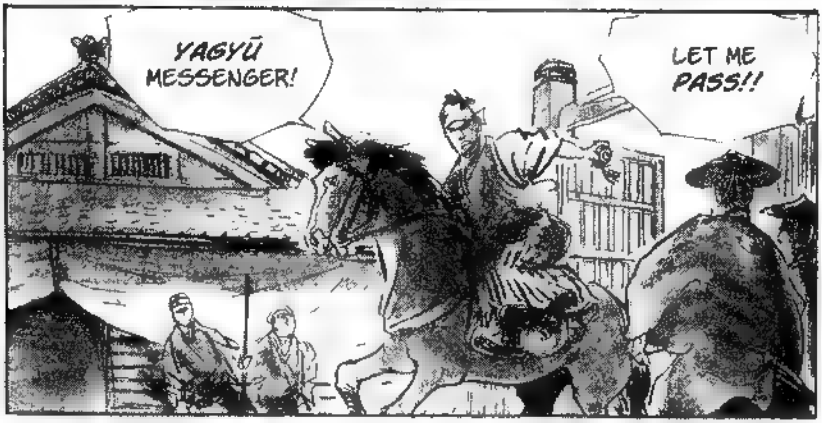
WE'LL END THIS LONG STRUGGLE, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

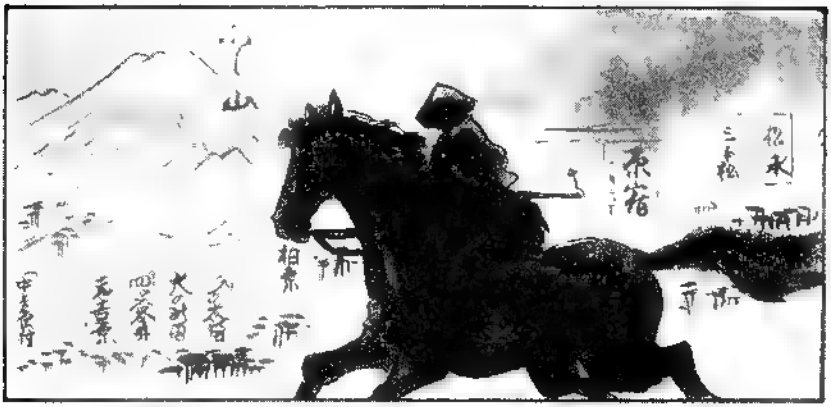
ŌGAMI ITTŌ!!

BEHIND
THE
SCENES


DRNN DRNN
THOKKA
DRNN DRNN
KTHOKKA THOKKA




YAGYŪ MESSENGER!
LET ME PASS!!



DEMON HIDE!
DEMON SEEK!

THE OLD LADY THERE, SHE'S IN HER CUPS!
DEVIL TREATS HER, SHE DRINKS IT UP!

YAHHH!

WAAH!
HA HA HA!

WHEE!

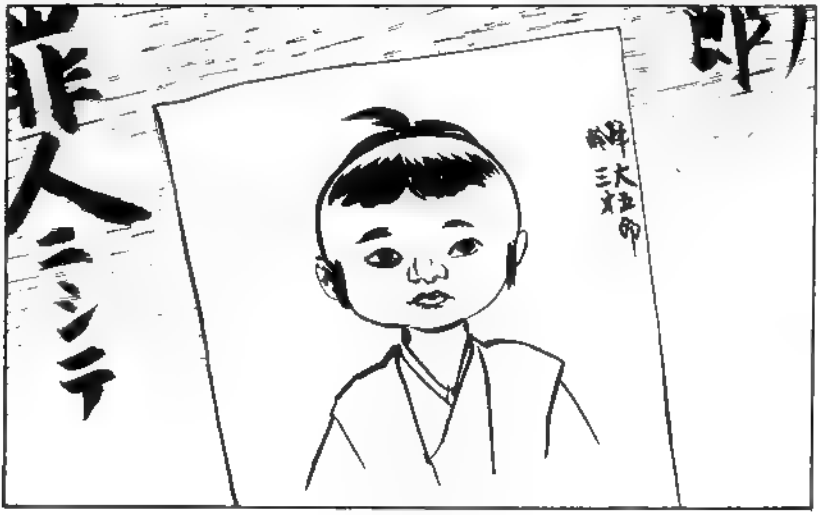
OUTTA THE WAY!!

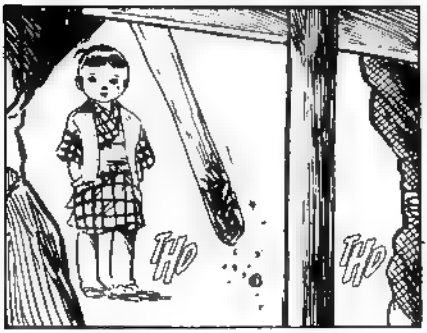
*LONE WOLF AND CUB (PSEUDONYM) ŌGAMI ITTŌ FORMER *KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN*, AND SON, DAIGORO

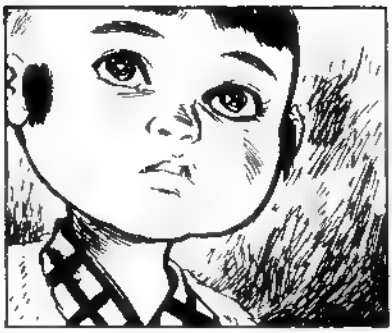
*ŌGAMI ITTŌ

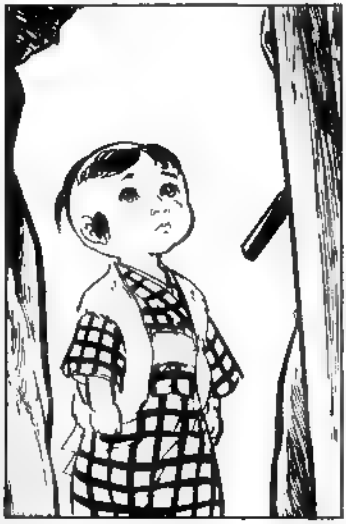
*ŌGAMI DAIGORO AGE THREE

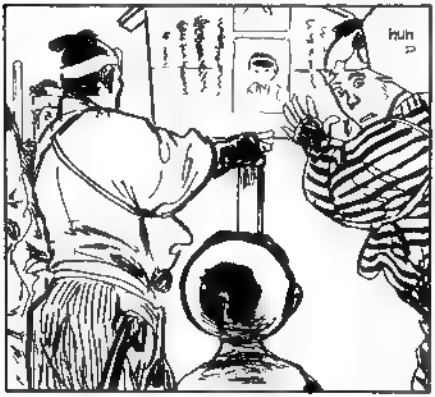
*WANTED, DEAD OR ALIVE, REWARD FOR CAPTURE, OR HEADS OF THE SAME, FIFTY PIECES OF GOLD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO ARREST, THIRTY IN SILVER. BY ORDER OF MAOKA *DAIKAN*




TTP
TTP






hun

NAW. NO WAY!

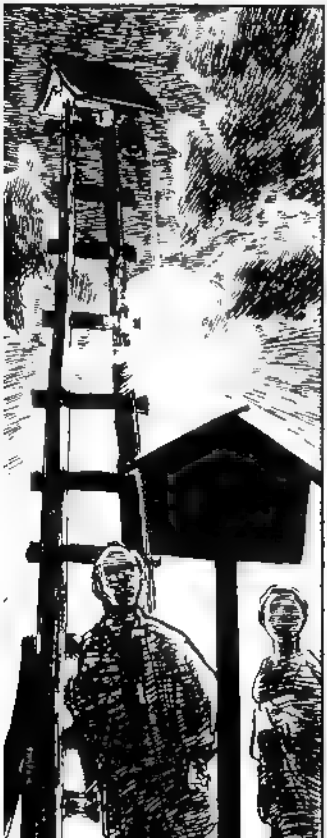
"LONE WOLF AND CUB" ? LORDY!
looks mean!
damn!
HUH. A FORMER EXECUTIONER? ŌGAMI ITTŌ AND, AND SON DAIGORO?

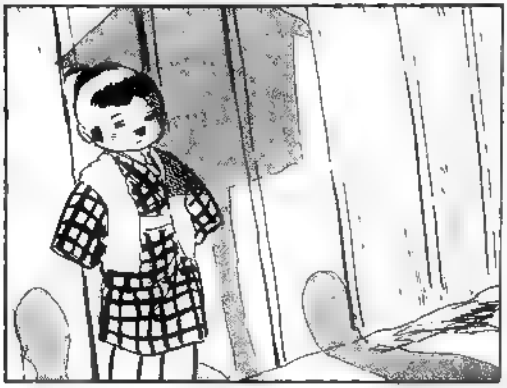
CUTE LIL TYKE, AIN'T HE?
I GET IT HE'S GOT A KID. SO IT'S LONE WOLF AND CUB!

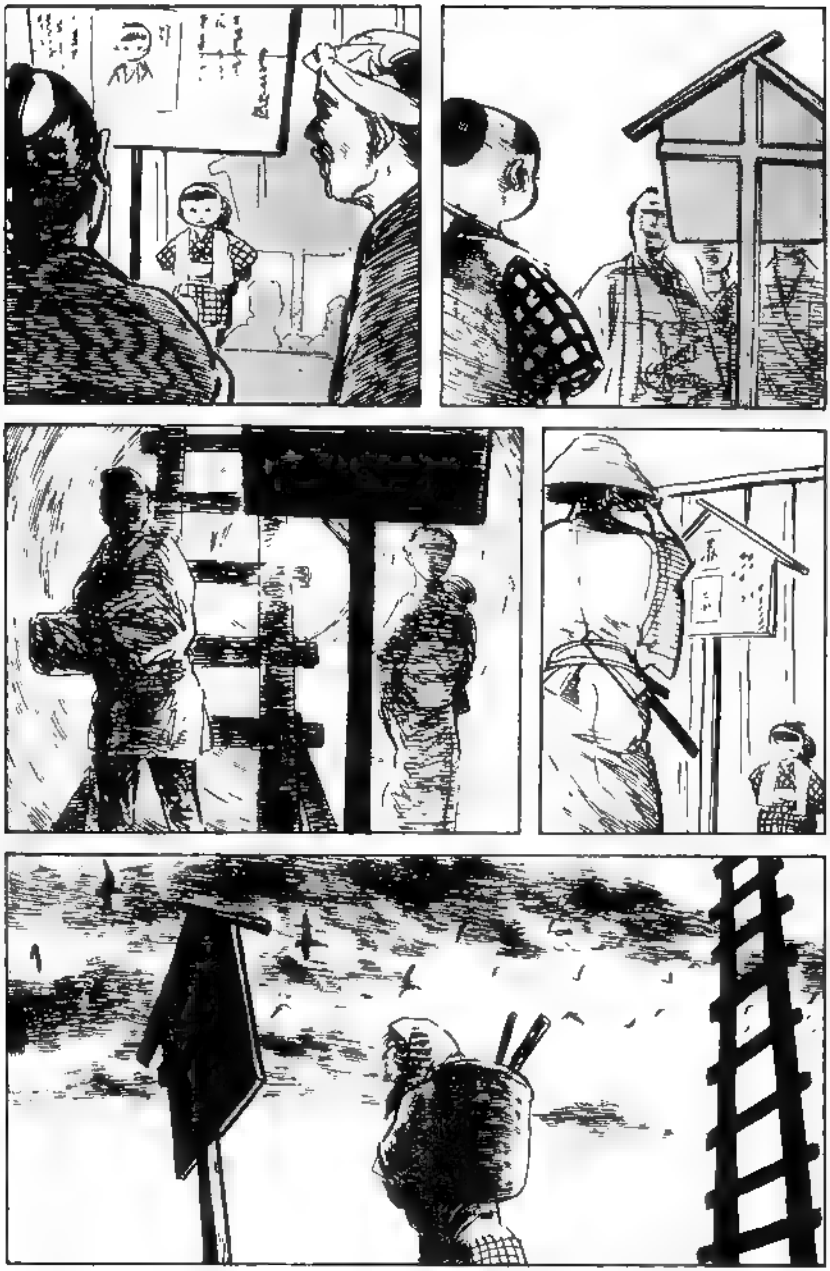
FIFTY RYŌ! NOT BAD!
YEAH, RIGHT! LONG AS YER NOT DEAD!

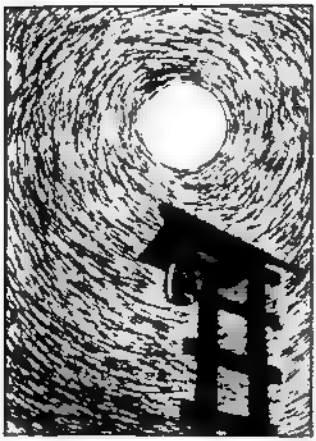
BUT THIRTY IN SILVER JUST FOR SPOTTING HIM!
WHY THE HELL WOULD THE SHŌGUN'S EXECUTIONER HANG OUT HERE?

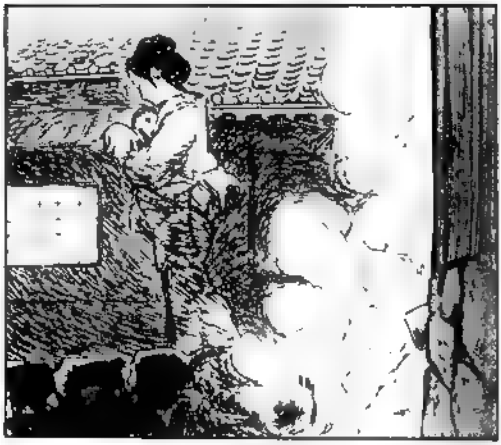
THE LAW KIN'T F ND 'IM. THET'S WHY THEY PUT A PRICE ON 'IM.
stop pushing! lemme see!
YOU SAID IT

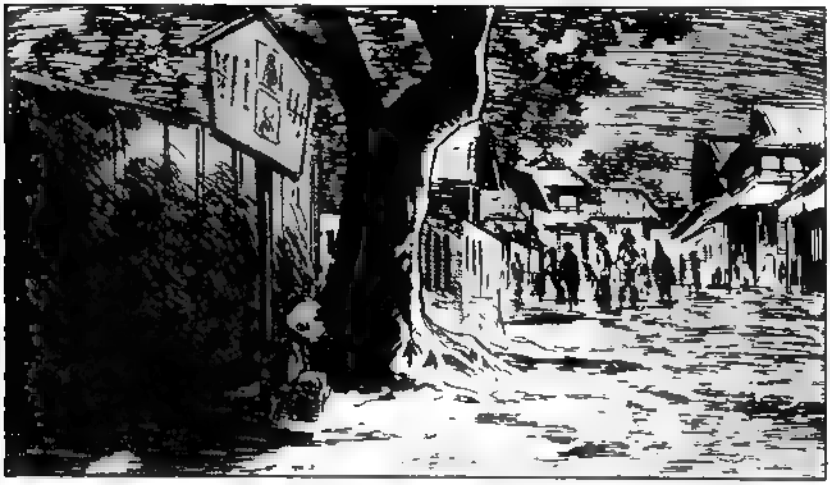




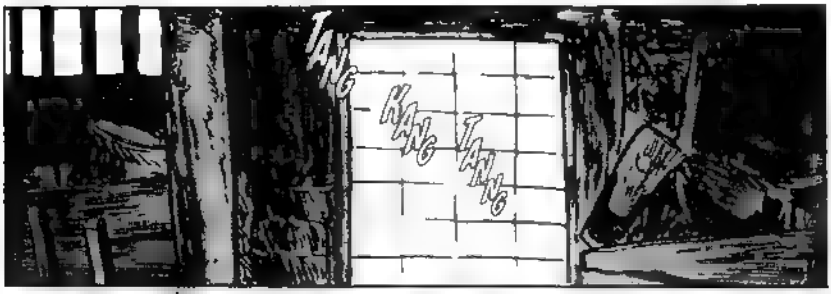


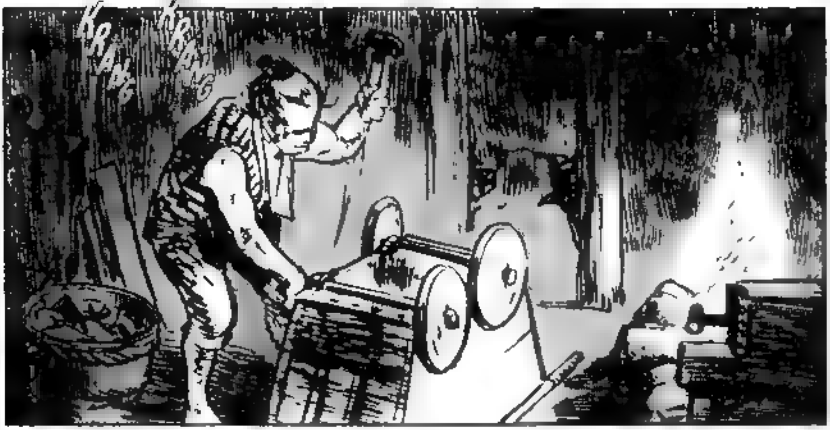




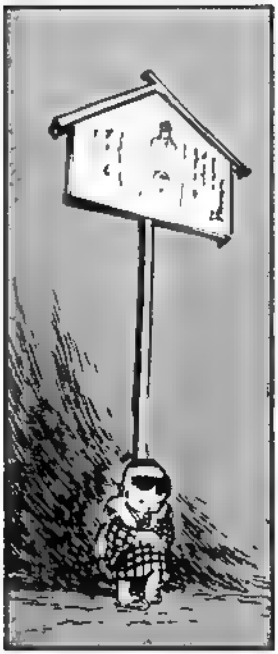


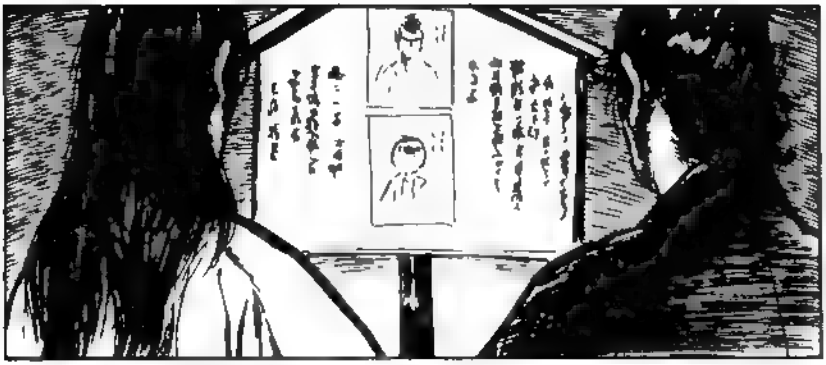
TANG
TANG
KANG

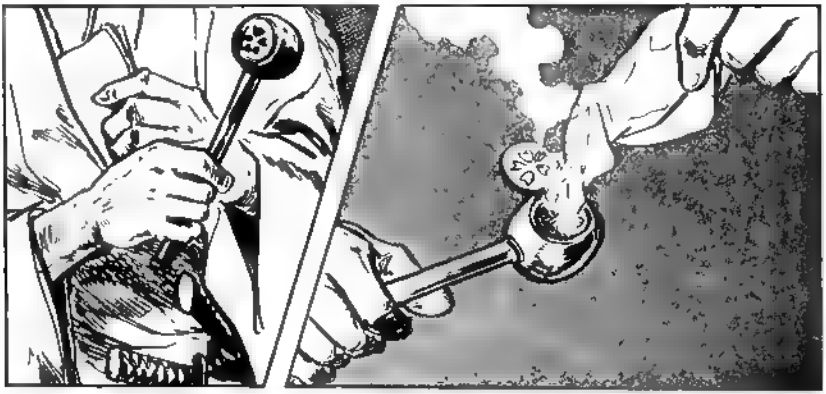

TANG
KANG
TANG


KRAAK
KRANG

THAT DOES IT
FINISHED BY THE FIFTH HOUR. GOOD AS MY WORD!
STILL, CAN'T FIGURE THIS HEAVY OLD IRON PLATE
HELL, IT'S JUST A DAMN BABY CARRIAGE!



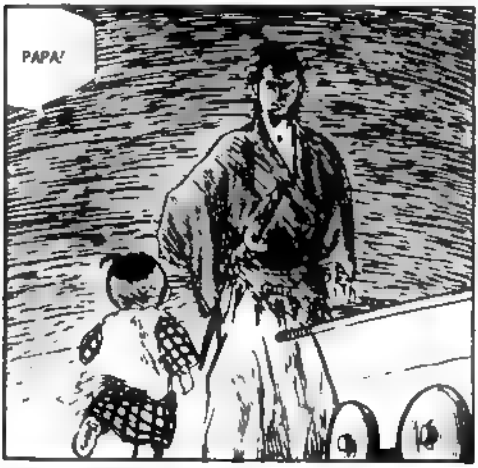




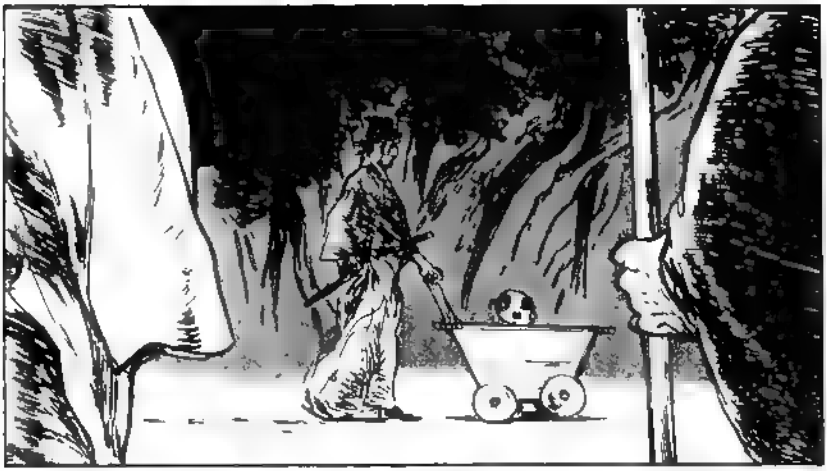
I'D HEARD *RUMORS*
BUT NOW THERE'S A *PRICE*.

WHICH MEANS *BUSINESS*.
FIFTY *RYŌ*. NOT *BAD*. NOT BAD AT *ALL*. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT

PAPA!


PAPA!

IT'S OKAY I SAW IT



MAN, IT'S LIKE BOILING THE WATER AND HAVING YOUR *CHICKEN* AND *ONIONS* HOP RIGHT *IN*.
NOT *SO FAST*– THIS ONE'S *DIFFERENT*

HE'S ŌGAMI ITTŌ EXECUTIONER SUIŌ-RYŪ!

SO THE FAMOUS SHACHI-NO-GENNAI'S SCARED?
I ENJOY A FIGHT AS MUCH AS ANY MAN. BUT I LIKE MY MONEY TO LAND IN MY LAP

SO? PLANS?
HIDE AND SEEK!

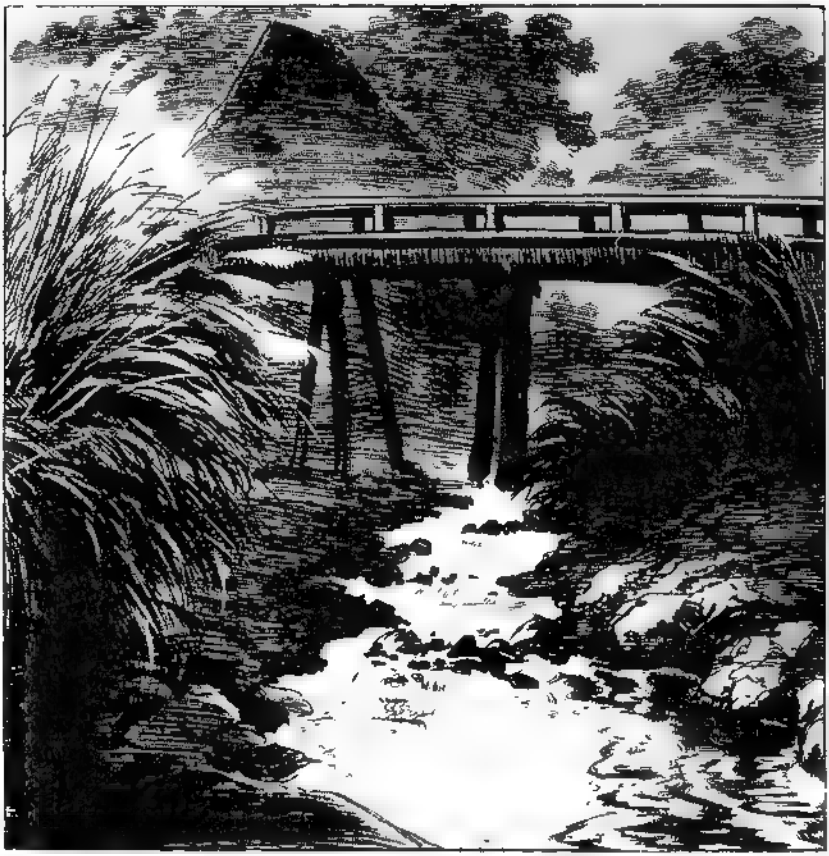
WHAT?!

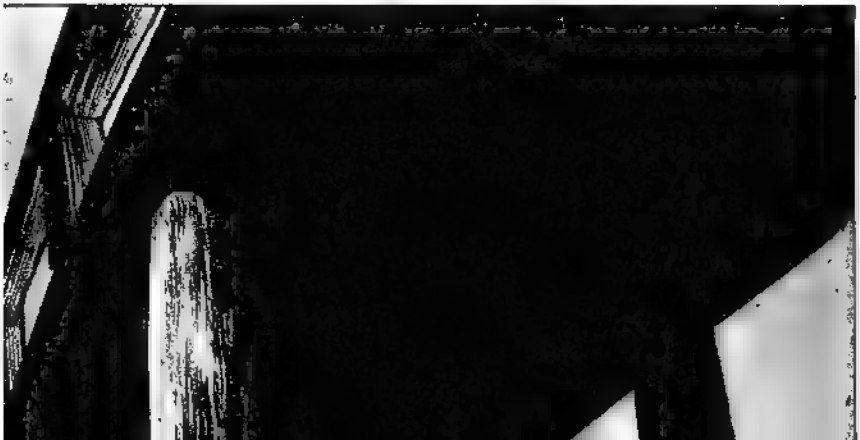
TO CATCH A DEMON, HIDE FROM THE DEMON.
GOT IT FROM SOME KIDS' GAME.

HIDE UNDER THAT *BRIDGE* ON THE EDGE OF TOWN, AND TAKE HIM FROM *BELOW!*
WITH *YOUR* SPEAR, YOU CAN NAIL HIM *DEAD.*

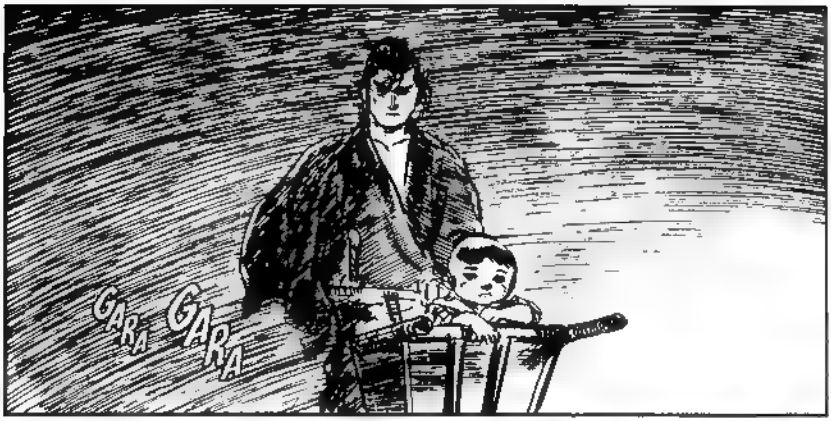
THE *CART'S* SO LOUD HE WON'T EVEN HEAR YOU MOVE OR STRIKE!

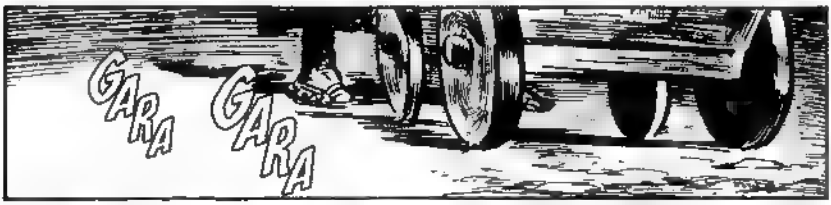
VERY CLEVER!





GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA


GARA GARA


GARA GARA

GARA GARA
SSH SSH

SSH SSH SSH

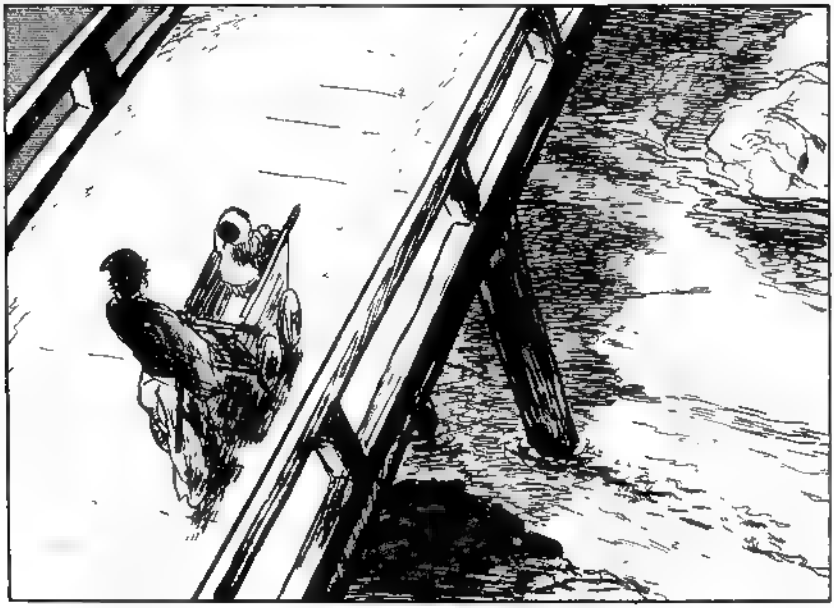
GARA
GARA

GARA
GARA

GARA
GARA
TNNK
KTNK

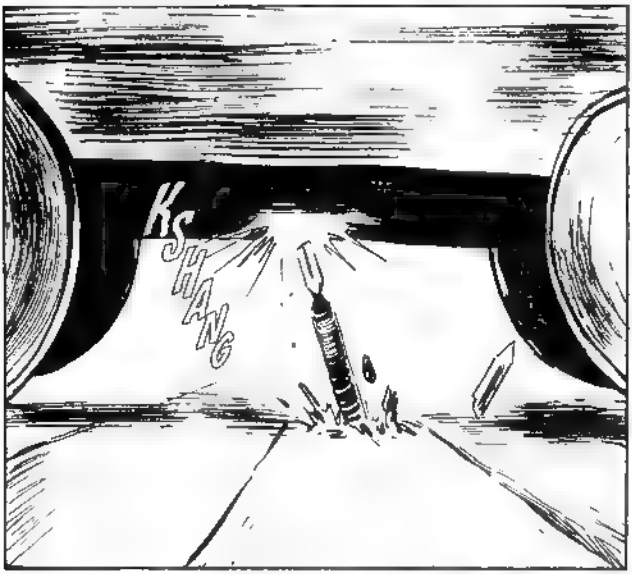
TNNK
KTNK
SPSSH
SLSH

SLSH
SPSSH

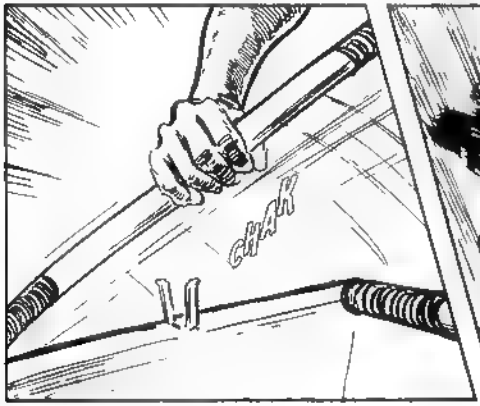


GARA GARA GARA
KTINK TINK KTINK
SHAAH

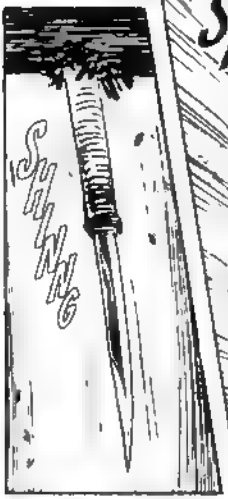
THNK
SHAKK


KSHANG

DAMN.

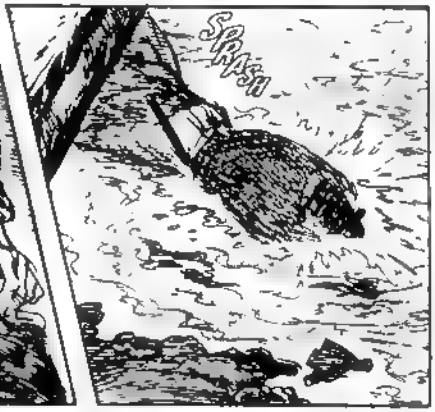

CHAK

SHRCK


SHING

SHRIKK
NGAHH!

SH-
SHIT


SPLASH

LONE WOLF INDEED.

KAKUBÊ, YOU DAMN FOOL.

UP TO YOUR WAIST IN CURRENT COULDN'T DODGE.

BUT I'M NOT SO EASY

NOT KUROKUWA NOT YAGYŪ WHO ARE YOU?
SHACHI-NO-GENNA... BOUNTY HUNTER.

A BOUNTY HUNTER I SEE.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU GUYS FOR AGES. ANY BOUNTY HUNTER WORTH HIS SALT HAS.

IT WAS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS WHEN YOUR HEAD WAS FIRE.

BUT NOW YOU'RE GOING FOR FIFTY BIG ONES. TIME TO WORK

AND I SCORED AN EXTRA THIRTY IN SILVER BY REPORTING YOU FIRST

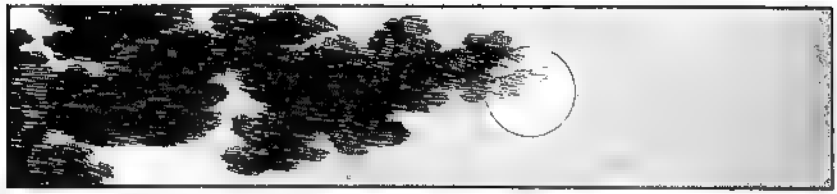
THE DAIKAN'S FOAMING AT THE MOUTH. HE'S ROUNDING UP A POSSE.

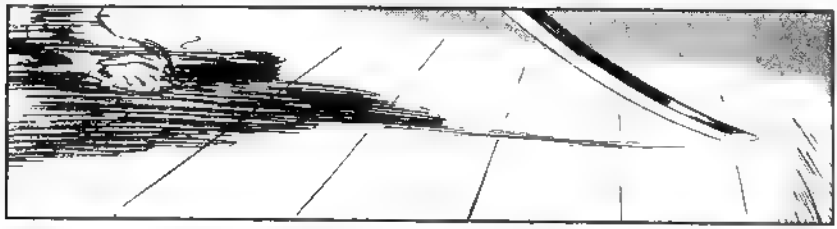
THEY'LL BE POUR ING IN HERE ANY MINUTE NOW. SO I GOTTA GET MY MEAL TICKET WHILE I CAN.

NASTY JOB. BUT SOME-ONE'S GOTTA DO IT

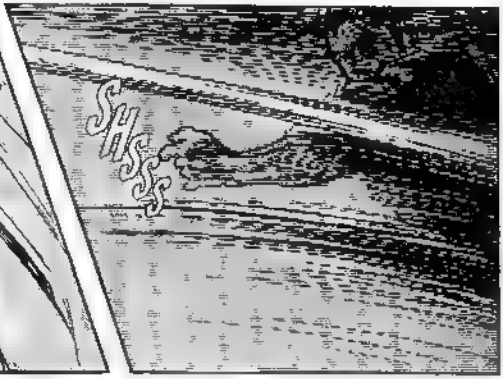
SHING

LET'S GO!





VZZZT

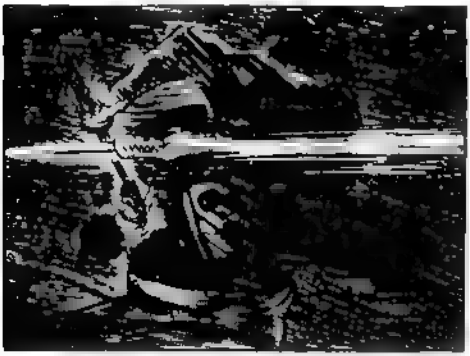

SHSSSS

T IMP

HEH. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D THROW BEFORE ME
MOST SAMURAI HESITATE BEFORE TOSS.IN' THEIR "SOUL" I WON THAT WAY A HUNDRED TIMES. BUT YOU BEAT ME TO IT YOU'RE NOT SAMURAI ?

NO CLAN! NO BUSHIDŌ! ONLY MEIFUMADŌ!

I LOSE



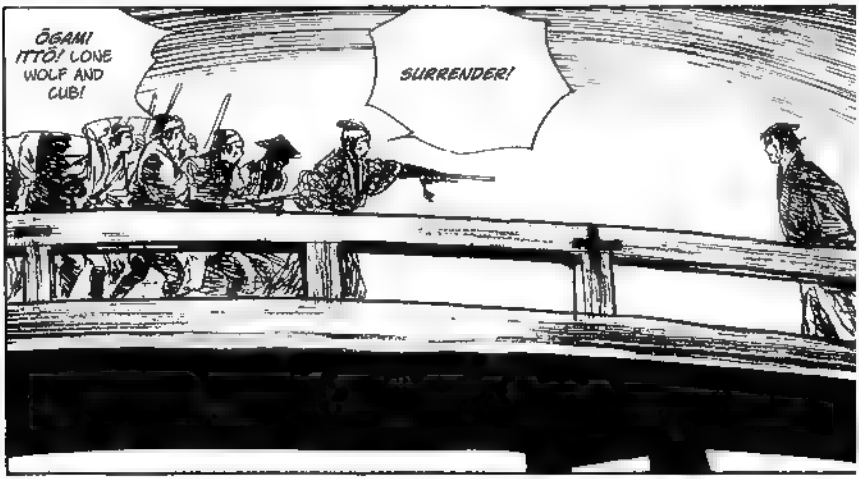
WSSSSI

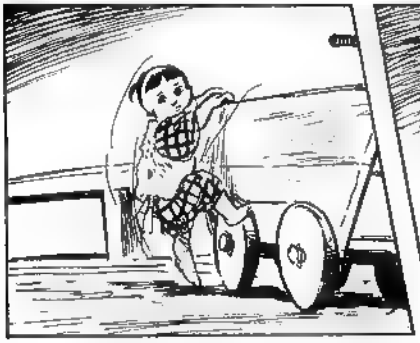
GCCH

FWOU

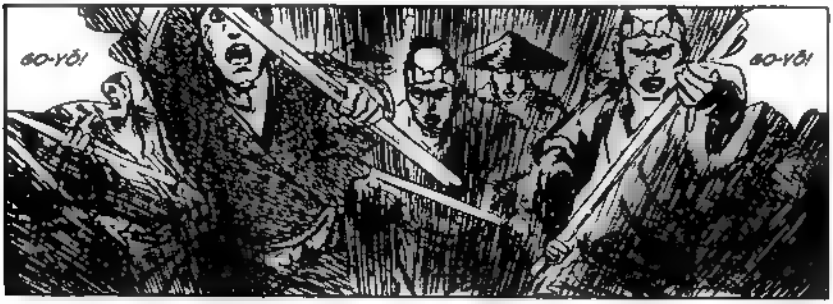
RATATATA
DRNN
DRNN

*GO-YŌ


ŌGAMI ITTŌ! LONE WOLF AND CUB!
SURRENDER!



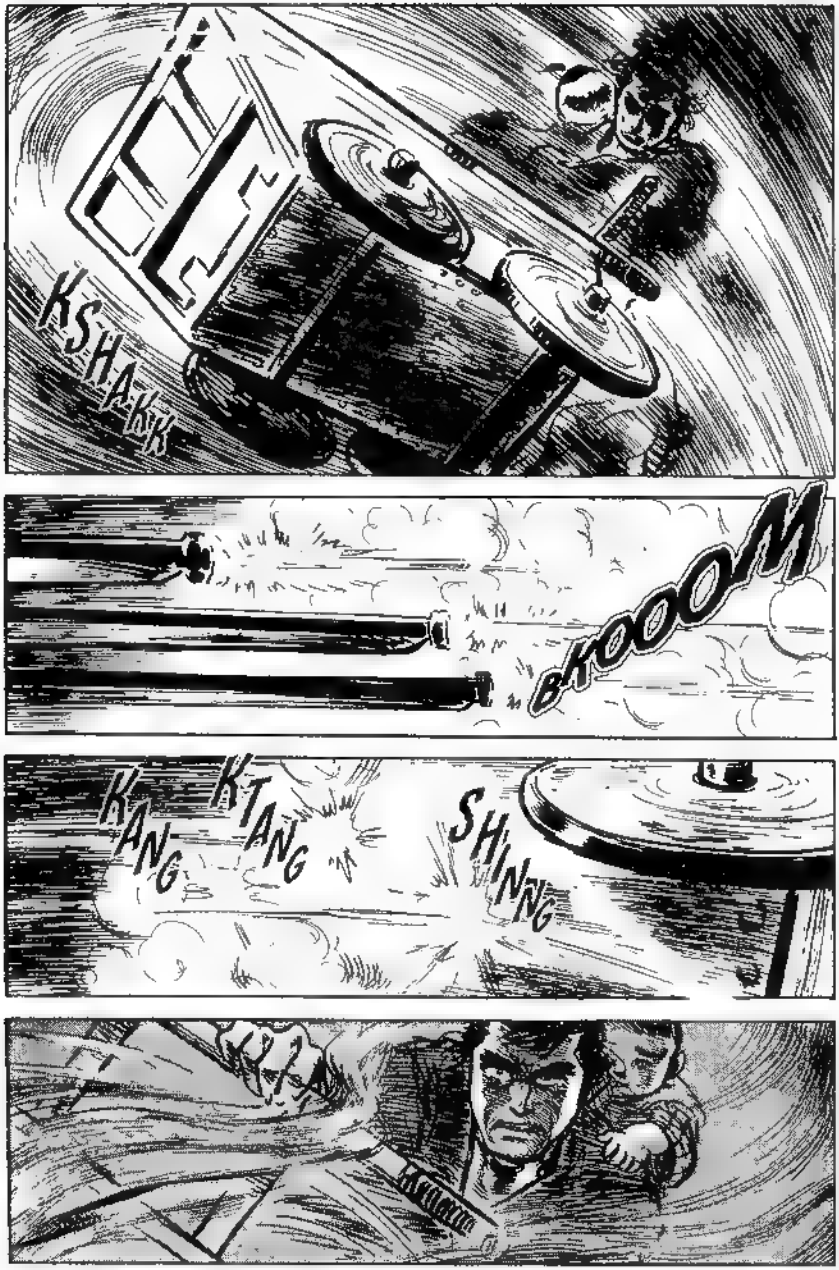
MEN! SEIZE HIM!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS!


GO-YŌ!
GO-YŌ!

WHSSH

NGAA!
HRRG!
SKKKT
SKOSSH
SHRUK
YAHH!
SHOOK
KOKK!
GYAH!

CHOK
SKUSSSH


KSHAKK
BKOOOM
KANG
KTANG
SHINNG

HYAA!

GARA
GARA
GARA

SKSSSI
KSHNGG
THUKK

THO
THO

AIEEE!!
HEH HEH HEH. YER MARKET VALUE'S GOIN' UP
heh heh heh.
FWIT

EVERY *STEP* DOWN THAT *DEMON ROAD* INFLATION!

AND I'M GONNA HAVE T' FRY IN HELL WITH MY THUMB UP MY ASS, WATCHIN SOMEONE ELSE *GET* IT *PISSES* ME OFF!

"DEMON *HIDE!* DEMON *SEEK!* THE OLD LADY THERE, SHE'S IN HER CUPS! DEVIL TREATS HER, SHE DRINKS IT UP!" HEH. GONNA BE DRINKIN' WITH THE DEVIL SOON.

IT'S HIDE AND SEEK, MAN.

THE *DEMONS* ARE ON YOUR *TAIL*

WHEREVER YOU GO! *BOUNTY DEMONS,* ALL OF US *CLOSING IN!*

GONNA BE NO PLACE TO *HIDE!* IT'S JUST TOO *TASTY,* THAT *HEAD* OF YOURS.

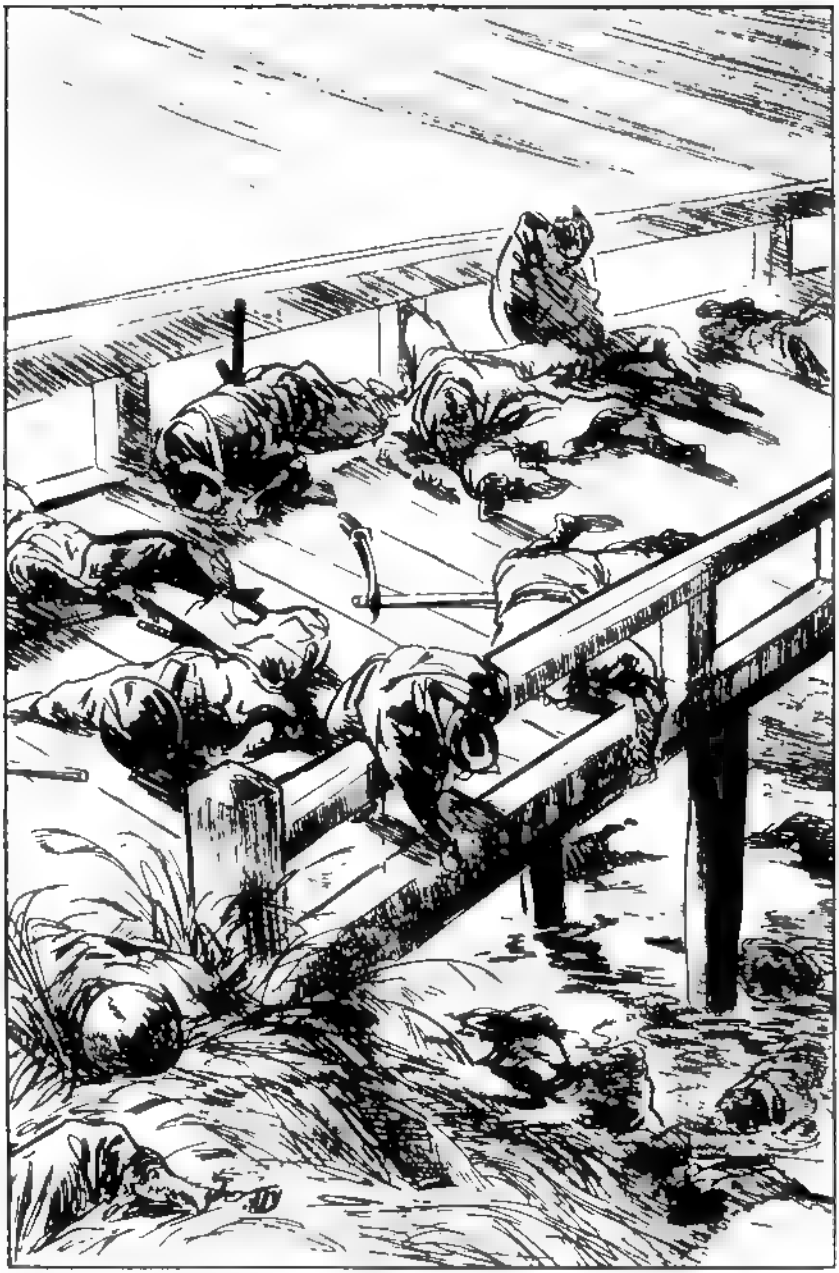
FROM NOW ON, YA GOT A NEW NAME
LONE BOUNTY HEAD!

HEH. JUST ONE EYE. MAKES THE MOON LOOK CLOSE.
LIKE I CAN REACH OUT 'N' TOUCH IT

HFF

SHK

THE YAGYŪ THE HAN THE DAIKANSHO
AND NOW. DEMONS

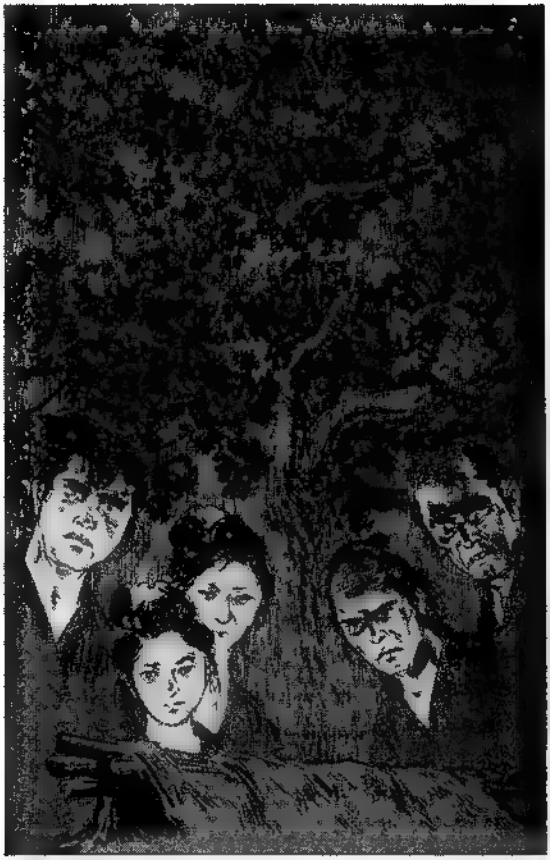


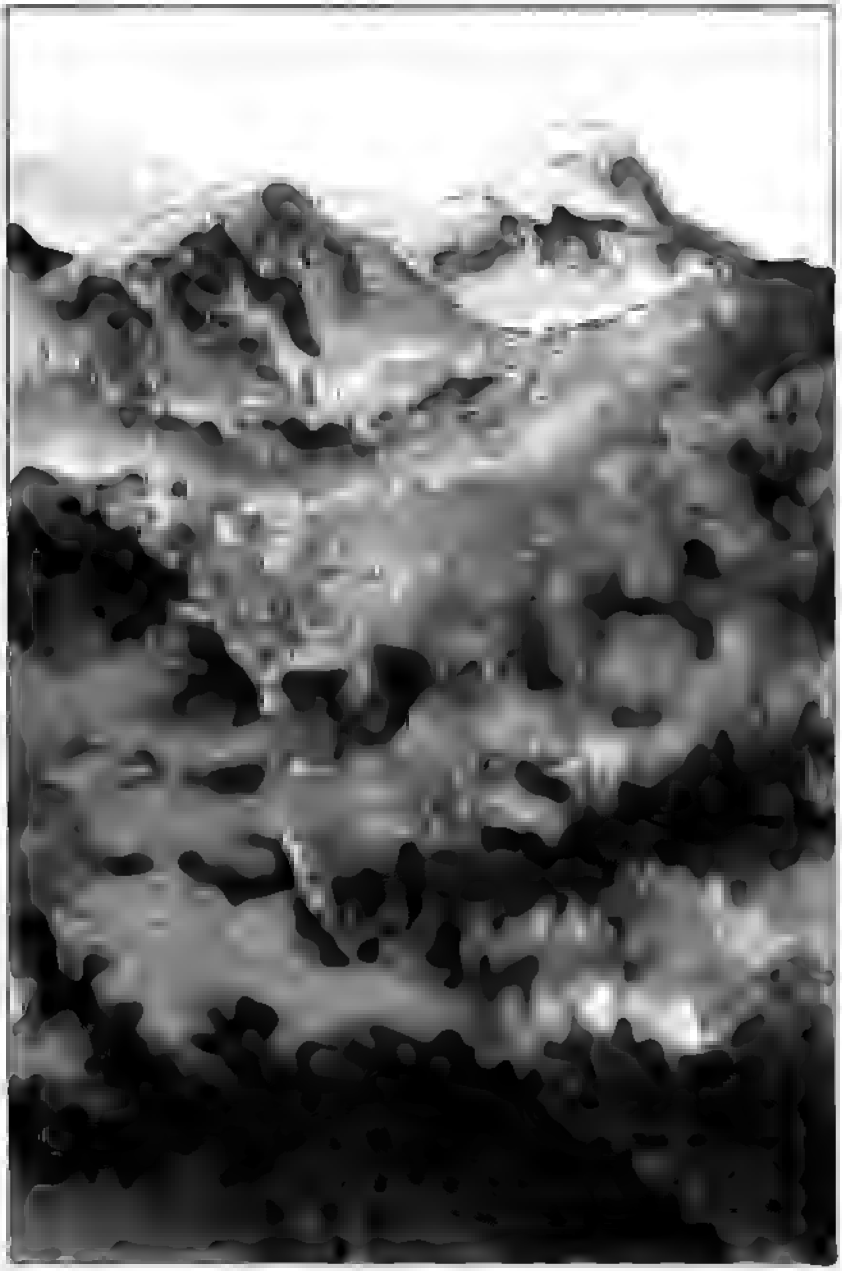
#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net

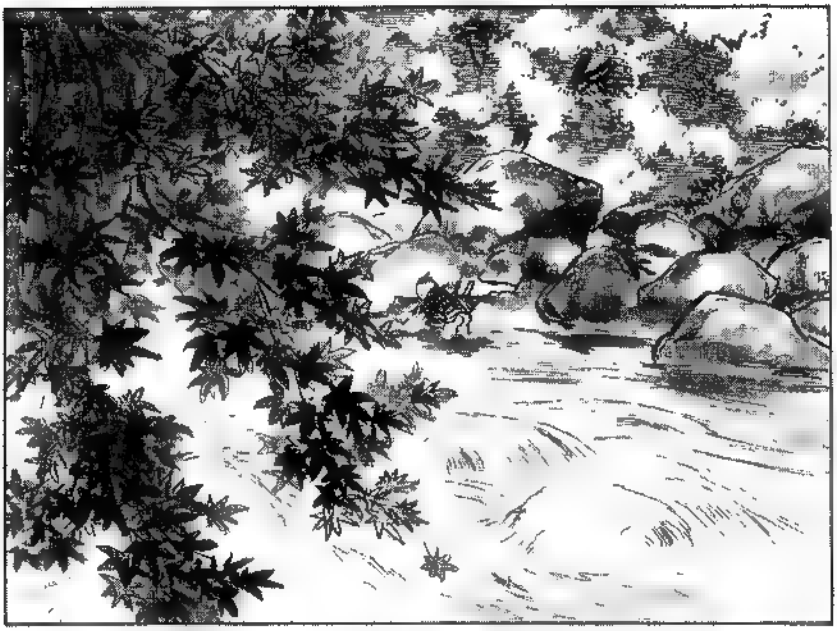
presents: Lone Wolf and Cub

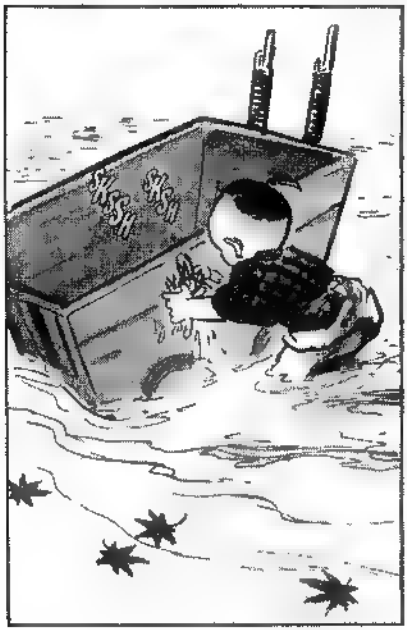
the eighty-second

Gateway into Winter





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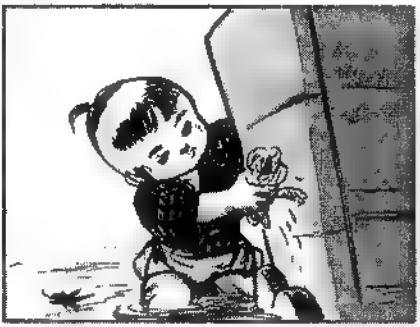
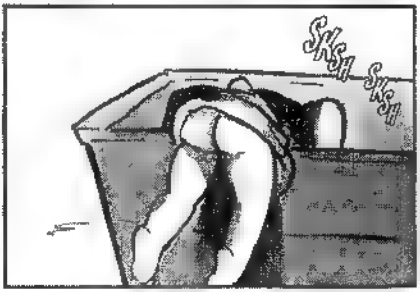
SKSH

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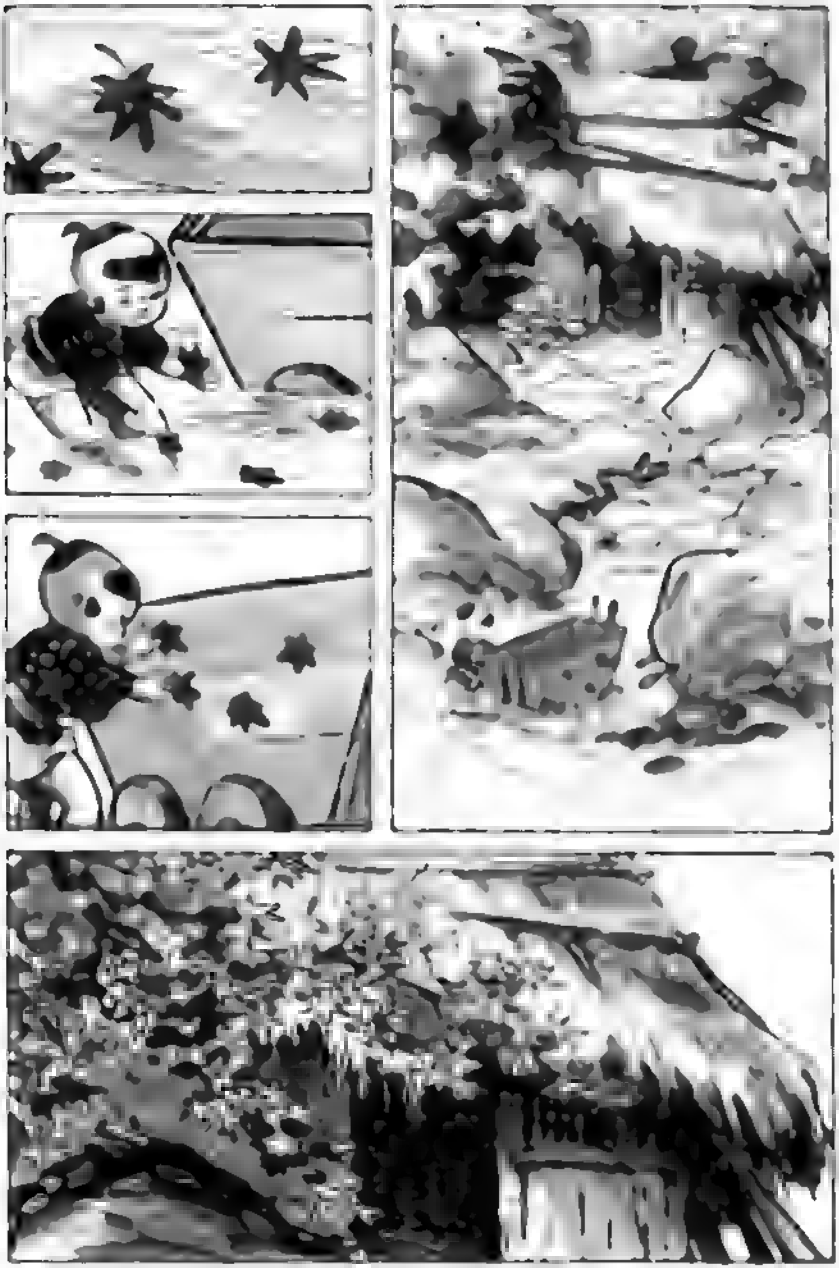
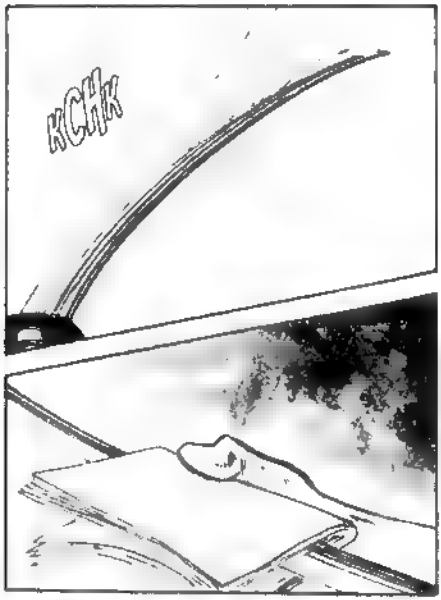
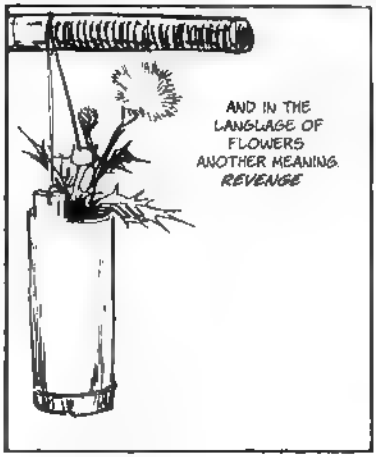
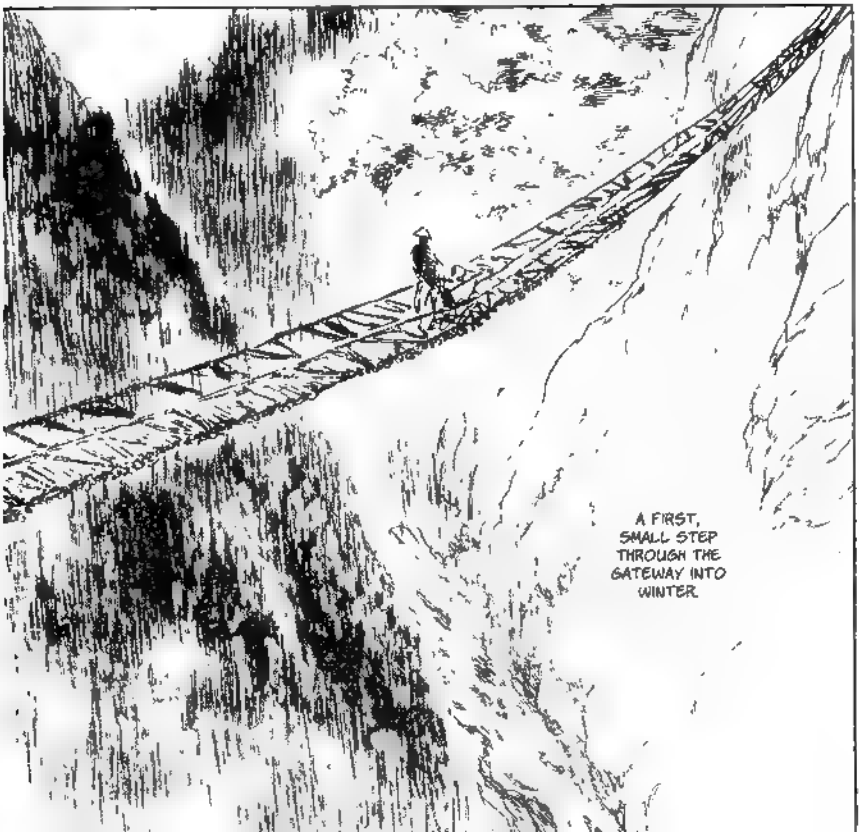



KCHK

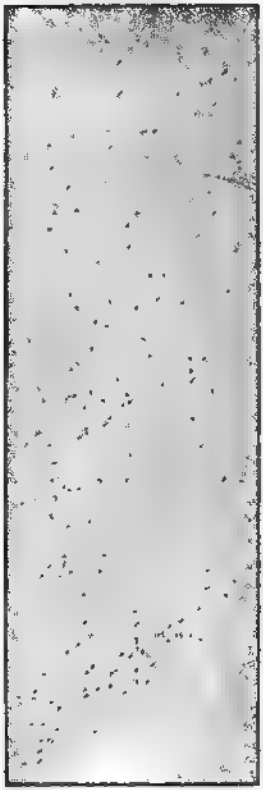
THE FLOWER'S NAME WAS
AKAMI FOR THIS FATHER AND SON IT WAS THE FLOWER OF WIVES, FLOWER OF MOTHERS THE AKAMI FLOWER

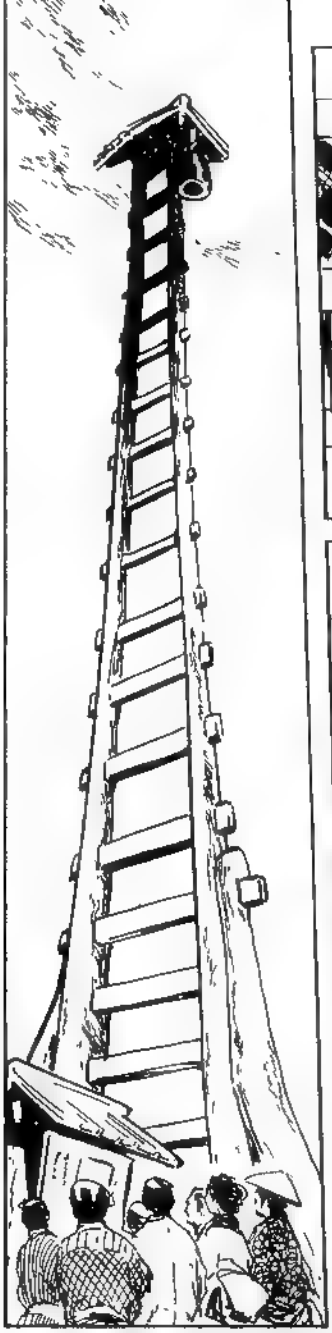

AND IN THE
LANGUAGE OF
FLOWERS
ANOTHER MEANING
REVENGE

THEY HAD CLEANSED BODY AND SOUL. THEY HAD TENDED THEIR WEAPONS AND NOW THIS FATHER AND SON, PLAYTHINGS OF DESTINY, SET FOOT ANEW ON THEIR JOURNEY OF REVENGE.


A FIRST, SMALL STEP THROUGH THE GATEWAY INTO WINTER.

JUST A SMALL STEP THAT WOULD CARRY THEM DEEP INTO WINTER.



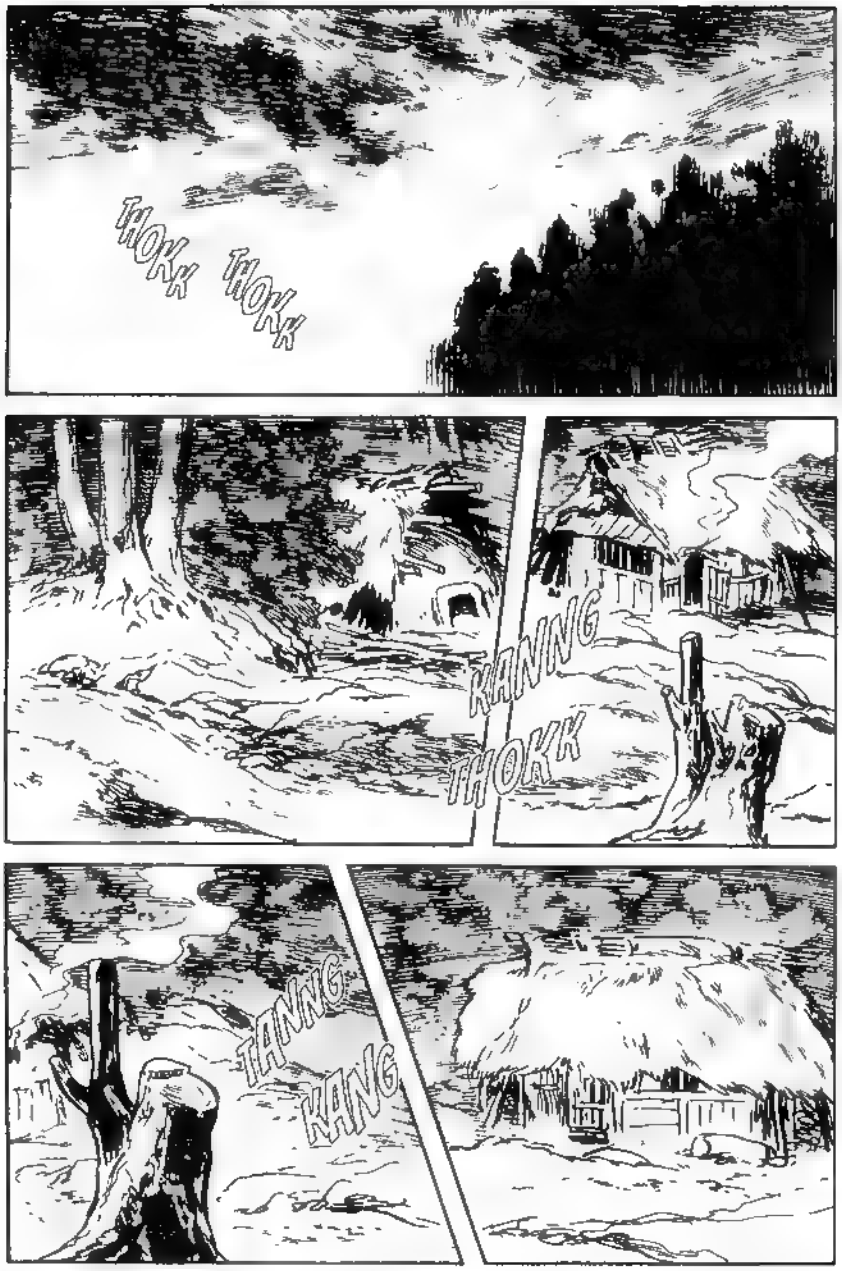


LET'S GIT GOIN'

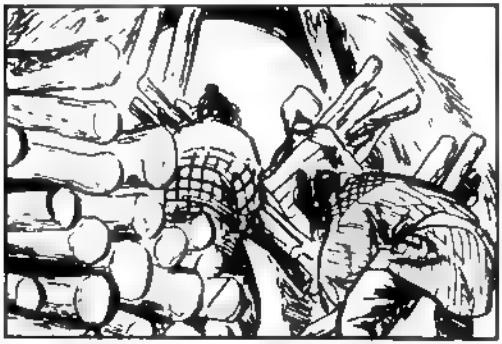
IF I HAD FIFTY RYŌ

HECK! IT'S THIRTY N SILVER JES' FER SPOTTIN' 'IM!
STOP YER DREAMIN', SON. IF YE'D STOP THET CRAZY DREAMIN', MEBBE YER'D GIT SOME WORK DONE.

SHEESH.
I'M JES' IMAGININ', IS ALL
IMAGINE, NOTHIN'! WE'RE JEST SUMIYAKI! CHASIN' KILLERS AIN'T NONE OF OUR BUSINESS!
HUH. FREEZE OUR BUTTS OFF MAKIN' CHARCOAL IN TH' HILLS. WORK A LI'L PUDDLE A' RICE WHEN TH' SNOW MELTS THET AIN'T LIVIN'!
AT LEAST I CAN HAVE MY DREAMS, KAIN'T I?!
NOW, NOW
SHIT!
EVEN I WANT SUMTHIN' MORE OUTTA LIFE!

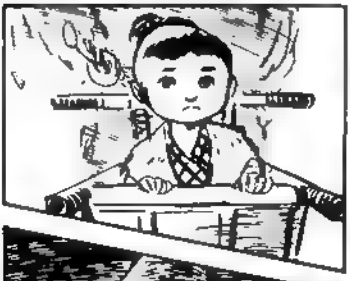

THOKK THOKK
KANNG
THOKK
TANNG
KANG

THOKK
THOKK



GARA
GARA

GARA
GARA



PARDON ME FOR ASKING.
YA YAS-SIR?

DOES THIS PATH LEAD TO FUJIEDA?
Y YASSIR! HEAD ON DOWN AN'-

N-NO, SIR! OH, NO! KA.N'T BE DONE!

MATSUKICHI! WHAT'RE YE-
SHUT YER MOUTH, PA!

IT'S THE DUTY OF US SUMIYAKI TO HELP OUT FOLK IN THE WOODS!
SO IMPOSS.-BLE YOU SAY?

Y-YES, SIR! SEE, THE SUN'S DROPP.IN' LAIK A ROCK.
AN' THE PATH TO FUJIEDA'S GOT CLIFFS ALL THE WAY AIN'T FIT FOR A GENT WITH A KID AFTER DARK WE NE'ER DO IT, AN' WE LIVE UP HERE!

PARK YERSELF WITH US T'NIGHT, SIR KAIN'T OFFER MUCH, BUT YER WELCOME TO IT

YUP THET'S BEST FOR SURE

HEH! CUTE LI'L TYKE, AIN'T HE!

MATSU-KICHI!
WHAT BE YE THINKIN'?

IT'S JES' A NIP DOWN T' FUJIEDA, NIGHT OR DAY YER SPINNIN' LIES!
LOOK- I GOT ME AN IDEA, PA!

WHY YE LI'L SKUNK !
PA. !

JES' HEAR ME OUT, PA!
YOU APOLOGIZE TO 'IM RAIT NOW! LORD KNOWS WHAT HE COULD DO TO US!

GIT 'EM OUTTA HERE QUICK!
DON'T YE CARE F OKIYO NEVER GITS MARRIED?

FIFTY RYŌ GITS HER A DOWRY!

GITS ME A WIFE!
BUYS US SOME REAL FIELDS!

JES' LOOKIT HACHIBE HERE!

THIRTY-SIX, AN' NO GIRL'LL HAVE HIM!
NO WAY, PA! I AIN'T GROWIN' OLD LIKE THAT, NO HOW!

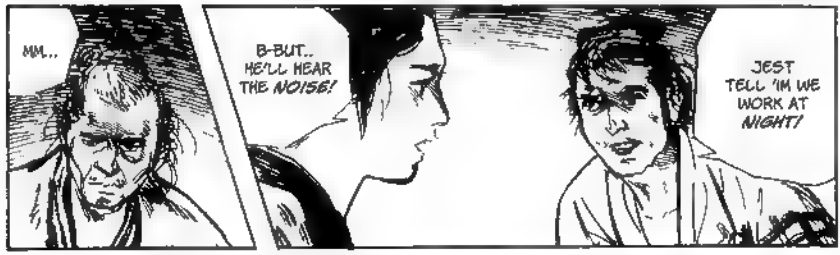
NNG. .
AH DON'T WANT NO BLOOD MONEY...
WHAT D'YER MEAN, "BLOOD MONEY" ?!

IT'S A REWARD! FROM THE GUMMINT! THET MAN'S A KILLER!
WE AIN'T DOIN' NUTHIN' BAD! THE GUMMINT'S GONNA PRAISE US!

MAYBE SO, BUT HOW TH' HECK.

HACHIBE'S RAHT BAD GUY OR NO, WE KAIN'T TAKE 'IM ON.
I GOT AN IDEA!
WE TAKE THE BIG SAW, ALL THREE OF US.

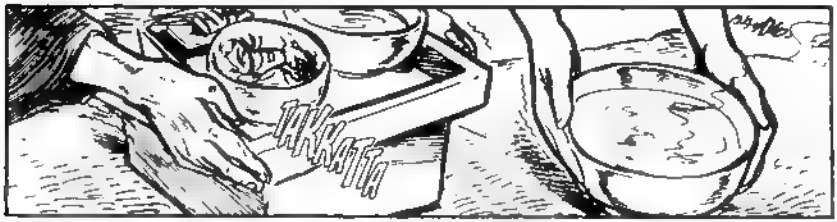
AN' DROP THET TREE BEHIND THE CABIN!


MM...
B-BUT.. HE'LL HEAR THE NOISE!
JEST TELL 'IM WE WORK AT NIGHT!

AH TELL YUH— IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE DOIN'!

RCTCK

IT AIN'T MUCH, SIR, BUT
THANK YOU.


TAKKATTA

KKKK
KKKK

THEN YE SLEEP WELL, Y'HEAR ?

OH, WE'S WORKIN' T'NIGHT
IF YE HEAR SOME S-SAWIN', DON'T PAY IT NO NEVER M-MIND

KCHK

IT'S NOTHING

SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
KRCCH
KCCHH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKRRK
KRCCH
SKCCH

SK

GIMME HERE, PA.
KRGCH
SKRGCH
KRGCH
SKRGCH
KGCH
KRGCH
GOTTA GOTTA GIT 'EM BEFORE DAWN!
FASTER, BROTHER!
SKGCH
KRGCH
NN. NGN!
KRGCH
KRGCH

KRCCH
KIYO! GO LOOK!
SKCCH

KRCCH

SKCCH

GNC
SKCCH

KRCCH

THEY'RE SLEEPIN' TIGHT
GOOD!

KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
KRRK
KRCCH
SKCCH
CCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCH
CH
KCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
GCCH
SKRKK
KRCCH
KCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH

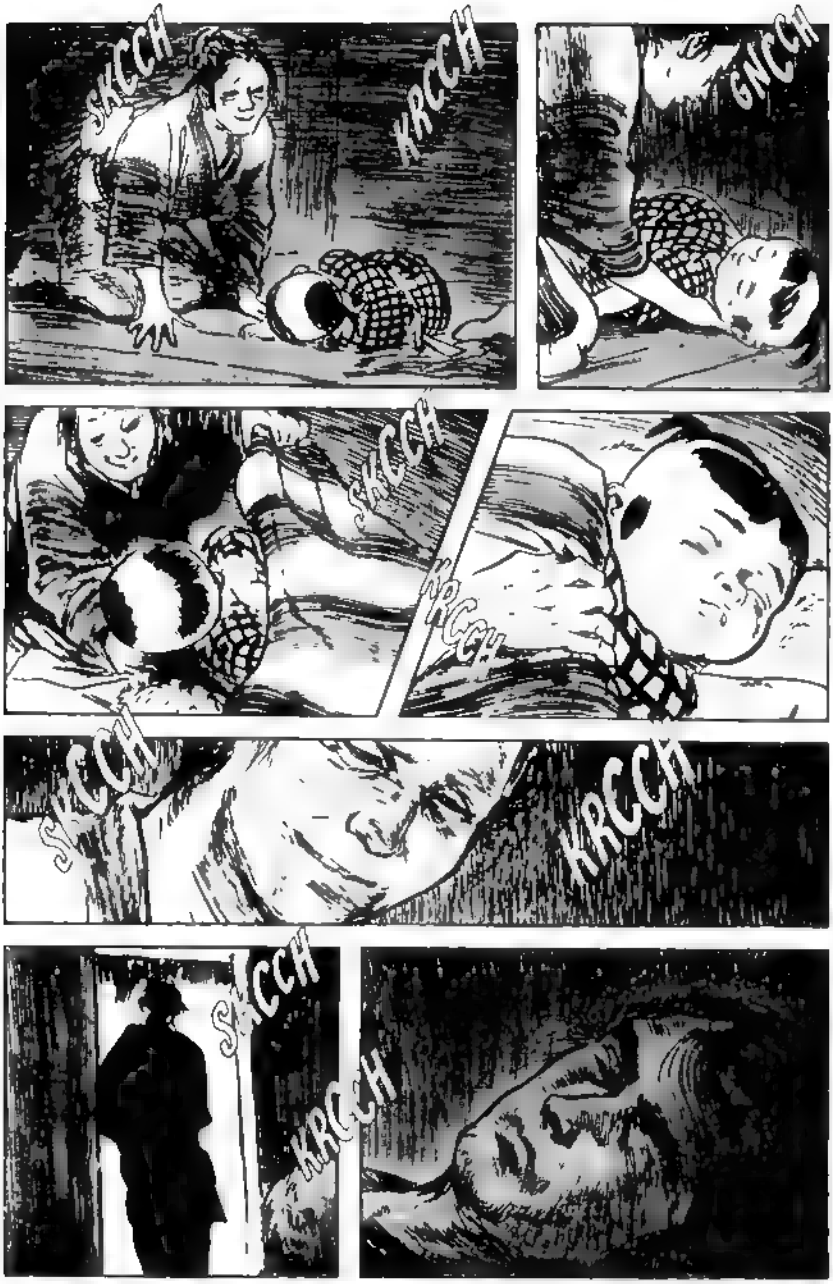
hhh.
hechoo!

SKCCH

KRCCH

KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH

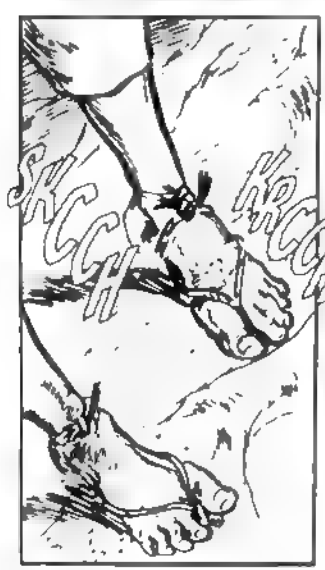

SKCCH
KRCCH
GNCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH
GRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH

SKCCH
KRCCH

MA? WHAT'S WRONG ?
KRCCH

KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH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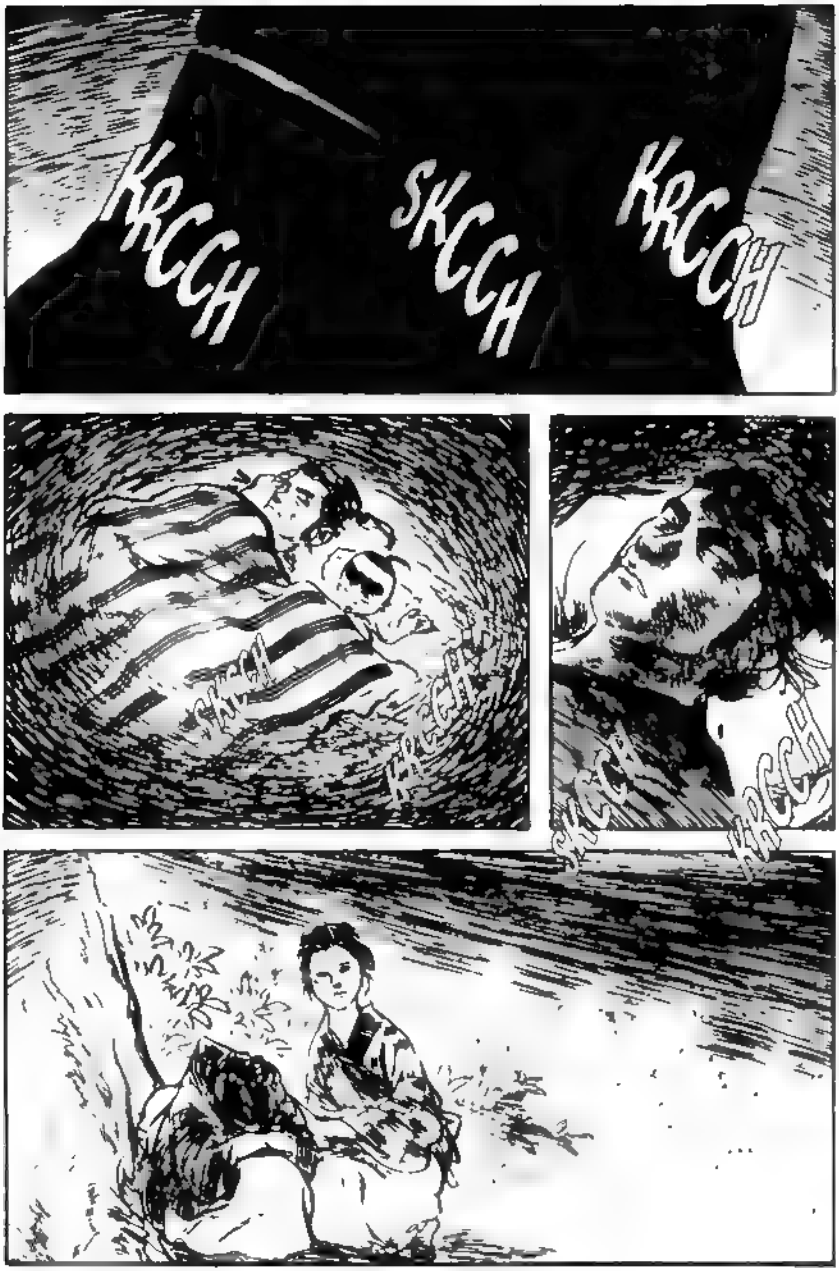
KRCCH

KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH


KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

SKCH
KCH
KCH
KCH

SKCCH

KR

SKCC

KRC

SKCCH
KRCCH
SKCCH
KRCCH

THET, THET DOES IT

LOOKS LAIK WE MADE IT

SO LET'S FINISH TH' JOB!
HERE WE GO!

NO!! DON'T DO IT!
HUH?! WHATCHER DOIN', MA?!

STOP IT, MATSUKICHI! I KAIN'T BE PART A' NO MURDER!
MA! IT'S TOO LATE! WE DECIDED!

I KNOWS T' BUT I KAIN'T!
DON'T CARE IF THE GUMMINT PRAISES US, DON'T CARE 'BOUT MONEY! I JES' KAIN'T NEVER KILL NOBODY!

DON'T DO IT, MATSUKICHI! PA! OKIYO! STOP 'IM!
OUTTA THE WAY, MA! JEST SHUT YER EYES, 'N' IT'S OVER!

HACHIBE! TAKE THE AXE OFF 'IM!
FIFTY RYŌ, MA! FIFTY RYŌ!
WE KIN' GIT A FIELD, ME AN HACHIBE KIN GIT MARRIED!

OKIYO GITS A GOOD HUSBAND!

KLONK

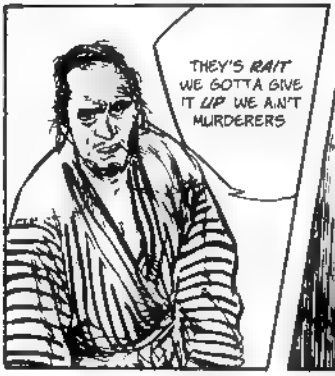
BUT WHAT'LL FOLK SAY IFFEN WE BUY A FIELD WITH BLOOD MONEY?! RED RICE, THET'S WHAT!

WHAT'LL FOLK SAY 'BOUT OKIYO'S DOWRY?!
WH. WHY'RE YA SAYIN' IT NOW?! WE COME THIS FAR!

YA SHOULDA SAID IT BEFORE!
NOW LEGGO! AH DON'T CARE!!

I JEST KAIN'T KILL. KAIN'T KILL THAT LI'L BOY!

I WON'T NEITHER!
IF WE KILL A BABY BOY I'LL HATE MAHSELF FEREVER AN' EVER!
DON'T DO IT? PLEASE? BROTHER?


THEY'S RAIT WE GOTTA GIVE IT UP WE AIN'T MURDERERS

THET CUTE LI'L LAD.
THE DEVIL GOT INTO US

PUT IT DOWN. C'MON, MATSUKICHI!
D-DAMN.

SPRINKLE

KRAKK
SPRAKK

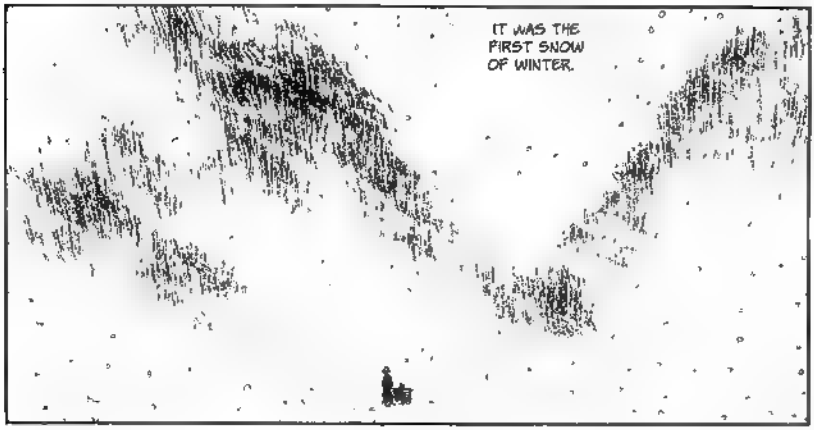
SKSSHH

SHKOOM

SKRASSH

NOOOO!!

OHH!



LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK SIXTEEN: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

bangashira
Commander of the guard

daikan
An official who collected taxes owed to Edo and oversaw public works, agriculture, and other projects administered by the central government.

daimyō
A feudal lord

Edo
The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo

han
A feudal domain.

honorifics
Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lone Wolf and Cub*.
chan – for children, young women, and close friends
dono – archaic; used for higher-ranked or highly respected figures
san – the most common, used among equals or near-equals
sama – used for superiors
sensei – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians

kitsune
A Japanese fox. Foxes were believed to be supernatural shape changers, transforming themselves into beautiful women to deceive travelers

kōgi kaishakunin
The shōgun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shogun

meifumadō
The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation

Mulberry
The leaves of the Mulberry tree are the favored food of silkworms

o-tedama
A traditional girl's game, playing catch and juggling with tedama, small juggling balls stuffed with dry beans

ri
Old unit of measurement Approximately 4 kilometers (2 5 miles)

rōnin
A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of han, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished rōnin became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words

ryō
A gold piece, worth 60 *monme*

ryū
Often translated as "school " The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master The largest schools had their own *dōjo* training centers and scores of students An effective swordsman had to study the different techniques of the various schools to know how to block them in combat Many *ryū* also had a set of special, secret techniques that were only taught to school initiates

shinobi
A generic term for ninja, meaning "one who moves in secrecy" Ninja had their heyday in the time of warring states before the rise of the Tokugawa clan. Originally mercenaries serving different warlords, by the Edo period they were in the service of the central government. The most famous *shinobi* were the ninja of Iga and Kaga, north of Kyoto The Kurokuwa that appear in *Lone Wolf and Cub* were officially the laborers and manual workers in Edo Castle Whether they truly served as a secret spy corps is lost in history

sumi
Japanese ink, used for calligraphy and *sumi-e* (ink paintings) It comes in a solid block and is wetted with water in a tray

sumiyaki
Charcoal makers. Charcoal was used in stoves for home heating and cooking. *Sumiyaki* spent the winter in the hills, cutting down lumber and slow burning it into charcoal to sell in town

tsuba
Sword guard

子通水狼

KAZUO KOIKE

Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Lone Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine, produced movies, written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays, and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

Lone Wolf and Cub was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kozure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and reprinted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryoichi Ikegami, was produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Sonjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear. "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.

GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

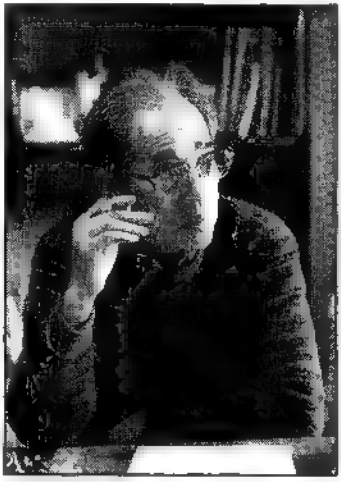
In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibai*, or "paper-play" narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-bon* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-bon* readers.

In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dojinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Kozure Okami* (*Lone Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the "golden duo" and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.



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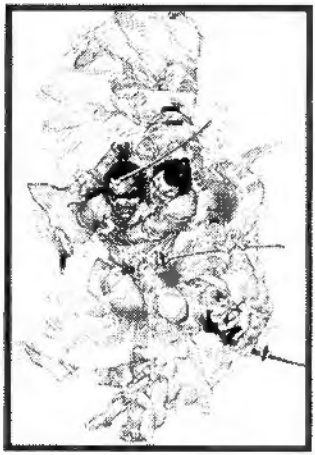

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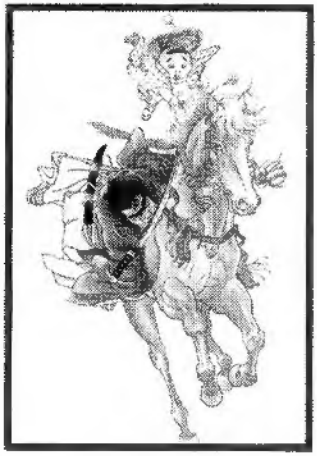

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